

Thousands protest in Tajikistan

MOSCOW (AP) — Tens of thousands of people demonstrated Sunday in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe to protest poor living conditions and a lack of consumer goods and medicine, the TASS news agency reported. The agency said the crowd also protested against violence in the republic, where fighting in the last week had killed at least 22 people. A Communist Party official blamed the violence on unresolved social problems, such as unemployment, the party daily Pravda reported Sunday. Shohi Shakhidov, a secretary of the Tajikistan Communist Party, told Pravda the 17,000 young people who had city seasonal jobs and the 70,000 unemployed in Dushanbe, the republic's capital, were sources of trouble. Shakhidov also said the rioting has cost 20 million rubles (\$12 million) in damage and that losses due to looting amounted to another 2.5 million rubles (\$1.5 million). The violence in Dushanbe, a city of 40,000 people located 2,400 kilometers southwest of Moscow, began with rumors that Armenian soldiers were arriving by the thousands and receiving police apartments in the city. Officials have denied the rumors.

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Mubarak, Gorbachev to discuss Jewish emigration

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak said Sunday his talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow next month would focus on Jewish settlement in Israel and the Israeli-held territories. Arab states fear many of the Jewish emigrants, expected to reach half-a-million over the next few years, will be encouraged by Israel to settle in the occupied territories where the PLO wants to set up a Palestinian state. "This is Arab land and a disputed issue... it is a grave mistake of Israel to act alone on this issue," Mubarak said. Moscow has called for a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to consider the issue, but it refuses to curb the Jewish exodus.

Egyptian leader may visit Syria

ASWAN (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak plans to visit Syria later this month following the resumption of full diplomatic ties with Damascus last year, a senior official said Sunday. "Mubarak intends to fly to Damascus later this month, probably after the four-nation ACC summit in Amman," the official told Reuters. The leaders of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen are due to meet in Amman on Feb. 24, one year after they formed the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) as an economic grouping.

Kuwaiti minister in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah arrived in Baghdad Sunday for talks expected to include the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel. The Kuwait News Agency said Saturday that Sheikh Sabah would discuss the expected emigration of about 500,000 Soviet Jews over the next few years. Palestinians and Arab states fear the new arrivals will settle in the Israeli-occupied territories. Sheikh Sabah is due to have talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. He will also deliver a verbal message to President Saddam Hussein from the Kuwaiti Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, before leaving for Jordan.

Aden, Sana'a discuss unity

ADEN (R) — The leaders of North and South Yemen Sunday discussed ways of overcoming obstacles to the planned merger of their countries in November, Radio Aden said. It said North Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh arrived unexpectedly in the border town of Mikhra for talks with Ali Salem Al Baidh, secretary-general of the ruling South Yemen Socialist Party. "They reviewed measures to deal with any obstacle of difficulty facing the (unification) process," the radio quoted a joint statement as saying. "The Yemeni people are capable of confronting all powers that are working against unity," it said, giving no details. Signed by the South Yemeni president, the unification pact last November. South Yemen has since announced reforms to its Marxist political system. Joint committees have been set up to coordinate the unification process, with both countries reporting the merger of several laws and government departments. Unification is scheduled for November, after ratification by the legislative bodies of both countries.

Sudan reports 52 rebels killed

KHARTOUM (R) — Government-sponsored forces in Sudan have killed 52 southern rebels in two separate battles, state Radio Omdurman said. It said seven men from the Popular Forces, the name given by Sudan's military rulers to pro-government tribal militias, were killed and three wounded. It did not say where or when the battles took place. Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army have been fighting the government in southern Sudan and adjacent areas since 1983 in a bid to end what they view as domination by the Arabized Muslim north.

King warns U.S. on Jewish immigration

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein expressed concern Sunday that the United States is moving away from its historic policy of supporting Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip just as new Soviet immigrants begin to stream into the Jewish state.

The King voiced Arab concern about the projected influx of as many as 750,000 new immigrants to Israel over the next five or six years. In an interview Washington Post conducted by Carlyle Murphy and Jackson Diehl, the King sharply criticized the U.S. approach to the immigration, a policy he said presented a direct threat to Jordan. "If Soviet immigrants move to the West Bank, King Hussein said, 'it obviously means that these people are going to displace others,' forcing a new wave of Palestinian emigration to Jordan. With the arrival of Soviet immigrants in West Bank settlements, the King said, the United States appeared to be softening its opposition to Israel's expansion into the territories. "Now we are putting into question, it seems, the whole status of the occupied territories," King Hussein said. "I'm most distressed about it. If the basic formula for peace is territory for peace... then we're starting to hear about something entirely different now."

King Hussein said he was particularly upset by the United States' abstention Friday during a vote on a resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Commission which called on Israel not to settle the immigrants in the "Palestinian and Arab" territories that Israel occupied in the 1967 Mideast war. U.S. Ambassador Morris Abram said in explaining the abstention that the United States does not accept resolution's "prejudgment" of the territories' final status, which he said "can only be determined through negotiations." "Is this authorized, is this United States' policy?" King Hussein said, pointing to a copy of Abram's statement. "This is a direct contradiction to (U.N. Security Council Resolution) 242, which (concerns) inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force" and which Washington was long supportive of. According to the Washington Post, U.S. officials said that Abram's statement, which called the settlements of Soviet immigrants "an obstacle to peace," did not contradict U.S. support for the formula of land for peace, nor did it represent a change in policy. King Hussein's criticism reflected his concern that the new wave of immigration to Israel will come at the expense of the stability of Jordan. "We are trying to attract the attention of the world to what is happening because it affects us directly," King Hussein said. King Hussein urged the United States to provide guarantees that Soviet immigrants "have not gone to replace others, to expel Palestinians from their national homeland." Other Jordanian officials here said Jordan was hoping to persuade the Bush administration to formally declare Israeli settlements in the territories illegal and rescind the tax-exempt status of U.S. groups that finance them.

Geagea seizes base; truce holds

ADMA BASE, Lebanon (R) — Christian militiamen checked corpses and respect shells in a captured airbase Sunday as their foe General Michel Aoun called for talks and Beirut's civilians savoured a rare calm in 19 days of inter-Christian war held through the day and many civilians attended church to pray for the more than 610 people who have been killed and 2,200 wounded. In a radio statement, Aoun said: "I hope the irregular situation in the liberated area will be solved through dialogue... I am working for such a solution." This was the first time the general has taken the initiative in seeking talks since his troops and those of Lebanese Forces (LF) militia leader Samir Geagea first clashed on Jan. 31 in a battle for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave. Until Saturday night, Aoun's army had slowly asserted its mastery in saturation shelling and rocket attacks on selected LF strongholds followed by ground assault. But a 10-hour offensive by elite units of the LF, backed with tank, artillery and rocket fire, brought the militia its first victory. At dawn, scores of army commandos abandoned the Adma Base as a ceasefire took hold and moved some 15 kilometers away. "The operation was very delicate and dangerous. Had anything gone wrong, there would have been a disaster," said Shaker Abu Saleh, a member of a church mediation committee escorting the commandos during the seven-hour evacuation. The commando and helicopter base, 20 kilometers north of Beirut, was the only army-held pocket in LF territory. Inside the perimeter on a pine-clad hilltop overlooking the port of Jounieh, LF militiamen drove a captured army tank, waving their flags and pointing to the army commando emblem. Several of Aoun's armoured vehicles still smouldered and bodies were seen lying on the shell-cratered battleground. "The fighting was very fierce. Look at what is left... this is bad, bad, bad," said an LF fighter who took part in the final push to Adma. (Continued on page 3)

Soweto rally cancelled as Mandela fever abates

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A rally was cancelled in South Africa's largest black township Sunday as Mandela fever subsided after a week of celebrating the release of the world's most famous political prisoner. Nelson Mandela, freed last Sunday under terms of President F.W. de Klerk's bid to break South Africa's political deadlock, spent a quiet day at home in Soweto black township outside Johannesburg. He was visited by a few friends and the leader of a rival anti-apartheid group, but the crowds which until now put his house under siege 24 hours a day had thinned to a trickle. A rally in Soweto to celebrate Mandela's release was cancelled at the last minute because of organisational problems, marshals said. Fewer than 100 people had arrived at the stadium when the cancellation was announced. At the other end of Johannesburg, several thousand residents turned out for a march and a rally in Alexandra township, but African National Congress (ANC) leaders who had previously said they would address the crowds called off at the last minute. The day passed off peacefully, with police keeping a low profile. An official of the committee coordinating Mandela's programme during his first weeks of freedom told reporters Sunday that there were no details of the ANC leader's programme for the next few days. But he added that Mandela would fly to both Bloemfontein and Durban next Sunday to address welcoming rallies there. He is shortly afterwards expected to travel to the ANC's exile headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, to meet colleagues who have steered the movement during a 30-year ban on its activities inside South Africa. South African newspapers reacted with amazement Sunday at the speed of developments since De Klerk announced Mandela's release and a lifting of the ANC ban in a landmark speech to parliament on Feb. 2. "Astoundingly, it is no longer far-fetched to speculate that substantial talks could be under way within months," the Sunday Times, South Africa's biggest circulation newspaper, said in an editorial. The ANC announced Friday it wanted to send a senior delegation to Cape Town soon to start "talks about talks" with De Klerk to clear the final obstacles to negotiation. De Klerk is expected to give his agreement to the ANC visit early this week. The ANC demands that South Africa lift a three-year state of emergency and release all political prisoners before they sit

Jordan, Iraq to create joint air force training squadron

AMMAN (AP) — A senior military official said Sunday that Jordan and Iraq have agreed to create a joint air force training squadron on advanced jet fighters to confront growing Israeli threats. "The squadron would help us face the threats of Israel against the Arab World," the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview. Israel's air force vastly over-matches Jordan's fleet of fighters, but Iraq, which borders Jordan to the east, has a large and battle-trained air force built up during the 1980-88 war with Iran. It also has increased military cooperation with Egypt, the most populous Arab country and the only one to have made peace with Israel. The official said His Majesty King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein recently reached tentative agreement on the squadron and said a formal announcement is expected soon. In the Arab World, air force squadrons are usually made up of 12 to 16 planes. The two leaders are due to attend a summit of the four-nation Arab Cooperation Council, which also includes Egypt and North Yemen, starting in Amman Saturday. The summit comes amid efforts by King Hussein to reconcile Iraq and Syria to help present a united stand against Israel. On Thursday, Syria's state news agency published a message from Jordanian Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar appealing for such a reconciliation. He urged revival of the long-dormant "eastern front" defence alliance of Iraq, Syria and Jordan. The Syrian agency rarely publishes messages contrary to government policy. The military official said the new agreement called for "joint training for air force personnel from both countries on new and advanced warplanes." He said those would include an undisclosed number of French-built Mirage 2000 jet fighters. Iraq is negotiating a possible \$2.2-billion purchase of 50 such jets and a Jordanian deal for them is in abeyance because of financial difficulties. Both countries currently operate older Mirage F-1s, which military analysts say are outclassed by Israel's U.S.-built F-16s. "Jordan saw it was necessary to reorganise Arab military cooperation, especially during this period when Israeli threats are growing," the official said. He said those threats include a planned mass migration of Soviet Jews to Israel and Palestinian territories it occupies, as well as repeated claims by Israeli leaders that Jordan

Petra Bank employees to stage protest to press their demands

By Sami Adibah  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — The Jordan Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA) announced Sunday that Petra Bank employees would stage a protest and stay away from work as of next Tuesday because their demands for improved working conditions and administrative reform were not met by the bank's government-appointed management committee. The announcement came after the association, representing Petra Bank employees, and the management committee, which took over the bank after an Economic Security Committee (ESC) decision last August, could not reach agreement on the demands of the employees. JBIEA President Haidar Rashid said that the bank's employees would stage a sit-in Tuesday in front of the Petra Bank's main office in Wadi Sagra, and employees working at branches outside Amman would stay away from work until their demands are met. An announcement made by the association and distributed to the employees said the negotiations had failed because the bank's management was trying to delay meeting the employees' demands by "postponing the meetings a number of times." The employees vowed to strike three weeks ago if their calls, submitted in a petition signed by 500 of the 600 staff members of the bank, were not accepted by the management. The association and the management met and negotiated twice in two weeks under the auspices of the minister of labour, Dr. Qassem Obaidat. According to Youssef Hurrari, an active member of the JBIEA, representatives of the bank's management did not attend a meeting scheduled for Tuesday at the Labour Ministry. The two parties were supposed to complete a draft agreement and sign it at that meeting, Hurrari said, adding that the management had referred the case to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). But Jawad Anani, a member of the Petra Bank management committee, denied that the issue was referred to the CBJ. In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Anani asserted that staging a strike at this time was not legitimate because a 14-day notice is required before conducting a strike "according to the labour law." Rashid, on the other hand, (Continued on page 3)

Rain yesterday heaviest per hour so far

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — The rainstorm that hit Jordan Sunday was expected to last through Sunday night, accompanied by thunderstorms, and snowfall over hilly areas, officials of the Jordan Meteorology Department said Sunday. The average speed of the winds was recorded Sunday at gusting from 65 to 100 kilometres-per-hour. Heavy rain was reported before 2 p.m. Sunday in the northern and central regions, and was estimated at 20 millimetres. "Today's and last Thursday's rainfall was rated heaviest per hour," Meteorologist Mazen Tarawneh said Sunday. Amman streets were flooded with rainwater, which caused heavy traffic congestions in some areas, and left pedestrians stranded for quite a while. "On Monday, it will be cold with partly cloudy skies, and there will be scattered showers," Meteorologist Nabil Kafawin said. Another storm is expected to form over Cyprus and will affect the Kingdom next Thursday, he said. According to Colonel Hisham Ensour, director of public relations at the Civil Defence Department, "sandstorms accompanied by strong winds were reported Sunday on the desert highway between Qatraneh and Husseinli leading to poor visibility and causing minor accidents." Two trailers were involved in an accident on the desert highway and one of the drivers was taken to Karak hospital after suffering minor injuries. Ensour warned drivers to slow down during bad weather, in order to decrease the number of traffic accidents. Asked about the impact of Sunday's heavy rain on Jordan's water reserves, government officials said it was too early to comment, but Jordan Valley Director General Mohammad Bani Hani said: "The rain is hardly enough to meet public demand during summertime." Earlier, officials of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation told the Jordan Times that so far this season the water reservoirs behind the Kingdom's dams had collected only 46 per cent of their total capacity of the dams, with 34 million cubic metres in the King Talal Dam which has a capacity to hold 82 million cubic metres.

Bonn ministers at odds over NATO role

WEST BERLIN (AP) — A dispute over reunification surfaced Sunday in the West German government, with Defence and Foreign Ministry officials at odds over the role NATO should play in a united Germany. The Soviet Union has said it opposes NATO membership for a united Germany and wants a reduction in the reunited Germany's armed forces. Defence Ministry officials, speaking Sunday on the condition of anonymity, stressed that NATO's security umbrella should extend over what is now East German territory once the two countries are united. Such a proposal was made Friday by Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg. But Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher was "deeply disappointed" by Stoltenberg's remarks, said Foreign Ministry officials on condition of anonymity. In a radio interview Saturday, Genscher ruled out extending NATO's territory into what is now East Germany. East Germany is a key part of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact alliance and West Germany is part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). A compromise on the future strategic alignment of a single Germany is considered necessary for the superpowers to accept a final reunification formula. East Germans, who ousted their hard-line Communist regime last year, are to hold their first free elections in the country's 41-year history on March 18. West German officials say reunification negotiations likely will begin in earnest after the balloting. Genscher believes Stoltenberg's suggestions could hinder upcoming talks on German unification with the Soviet Union, United States, Britain and France. Foreign Ministry officials said Genscher intends to bring up the matter at a cabinet meeting next week, they said. News reports Saturday said Chancellor Helmut Kohl already had made two important concessions to the Kremlin on reunification. The Bonn government denied the reports. Valentin Falin, a top adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, was quoted as saying in Der Spiegel magazine that a united Germany must retain East Germany's trade commitments to the Soviet Union. "The German Democratic Republic must carry out its duties and obligations to the Warsaw Pact even after the parliamentary elections on March 18."

Israelis shoot dead Palestinian schoolgirl in Nablus

NABLUS, West Bank (R) — Israelis shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian schoolgirl Sunday after their cars were stoned in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, residents said. They identified the dead girl as Sawwan Shakhshir and said the vehicles involved belonged to Israeli settlers and the army. The army said it was checking the report. The killing raised the toll in the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising to 624 Arabs killed by Israelis. The army earlier reported two unidentified bodies were found in Nablus. One apparently died of natural causes but the other has been shot several times. In the occupied Gaza Strip, two Palestinians were wounded by army gunfire during clashes. Arab sources said. A 23-year-old man suffered a wound in the face and a 13-year-old boy was hit in the head and the arm.

Sharon quits cabinet post

In a separate development, hardline cabinet minister Ariel Sharon formally quit the government Sunday and launched a campaign against proposed Israeli-Palestinian peace talks that he said "threatened the Jewish state." "I don't remember as dangerous a situation as we are facing now," Sharon, an outspoken advocate of force, told a news conference a few hours after ending a 13-year ministerial career. Although he said his priority was to halt Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cautious steps toward peace talks, he also made clear his intention was to seek the leadership of the country. "I decided to leave my office as a result of the fact I felt I could not struggle anyone about several major issues that I feel are at stake," Sharon said. The 61-year-old trade and industry minister said Shamir's moves towards negotiations threatened Israel's existence by questioning its hold over occupied Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, occupied during the 1967 Middle East war. Instead, Sharon gave his own proposals, which included Western pressure on Arab states to suppress the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a cut in arms supplies to Israel's adversaries. He called for opening the border with Jordan, but conceded Jordan's views were unknown. Sharon, who ruthlessly pacified the Gaza Strip in the 1970s, repeated his view that Gaza refugees camps should be razed and the occupants resettled. But Sharon, who had promised to crush the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising if made defence minister, said the West Bank and the Gaza Strip must remain under Israeli control. Sharon first announced he would step down six days ago, turning a meeting of the Likud Party into chaos and providing a (Continued on page 3)

SCANCLUB JORDAN  
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## Aoun's troops take over E. Beirut residential districts

By Donna Abu-Nar  
The Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Glass shards crunched underfoot as Red Cross workers removed the body of a Lebanese Forces fighter crushed by a bullet-riddled tank against the wall of a demolished building in Christian east Beirut.

Gen. Michel Aoun's soldiers have warned civilians not to touch corpses, saying some of them were booby-trapped by the fleeing Lebanese Forces militiamen led by rival Christian warrior Samir Geagea.

Two other Red Cross workers, wearing bright orange uniforms, trudging in a pile of garbage near the Soviet-made T-54 tank as they tried to slip a metal stretcher under the body of a second militiaman.

"We found the lower part of the body near the garbage. The upper part was 10 metres away," said one Red Cross worker as he waved off swarming flies.

Apparently, the tank was hit by a shell as the Lebanese Forces militiamen jumped out. The errand tank, its driver wounded, rammed the militiamen against the wall.

Paras shot away youngsters watching the scene in the Fura Al Shubbak section of east Beirut.

"Where are the other two bodies?" one harried rescuer asked his colleagues. "There were four militiamen in the tank."

An eerie silence hung over Fura Al Shubbak and the neighbouring district Ein Al Rummaneh Saturday, a day after Aoun's soldiers arrested both districts from Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces after

a 16-hour tank assault.

At least 75 people were killed and 54 wounded in the attack against the low-income residential neighbourhoods in east Beirut.

By police count, more than 600 people have been killed and more than 1,800 wounded in the 18-day-old struggle for mastery of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave between Aoun's 19,000 troops and Geagea's forces, made up of 6,000 militiamen and 10,000 reservists.

Ein Al Rummaneh and Fura Al Shubbak looked as if it struck by a monstrous earthquake after the onslaught by Aoun's predominantly Sunni Muslim "Mukafaha," or special corps.

An acrid stench in incinerated steel mingled with the smell of corpses.

Some of Ein Al Rummaneh's densely populated narrow alleys resembled junkyards piled with burned cars, compressed into thin sheets by tanks that had crushed them.

The 1,500-metre long Fura Al Shubbak commercial thoroughfare looked like a piece of ploughed land, strewn with debris, pieces of furniture and window shutters that filled craters.

Aoun's soldiers were defusing mines planted by Geagea's men around the militia's posts and barracks, now decorated with Aoun posters and the Lebanese flag.

A soldier who lost his left eye in the latest clashes was standing guard at the entrance to one of the Lebanese Forces barracks in Ein Al Rummaneh.

"There's a booby-trapped backgammon board here. No



A Christian woman in east Beirut seeks direction from troops for the best route to a safe zone.

one can go in. We are waiting for the sappers," he said.

The troops, stationed in nearly every street in the two areas, warned civilians against touching suspicious-looking objects.

"The dirty militiamen have even booby-trapped corpses," said one soldier standing next to a car piled with mines the army had removed from the edges of Fura Al Shubbak.

"We didn't enjoy fighting

them but we wanted to liberate our areas from these filthy people. They left us no other choice," said another soldier.

"We are taking a small rest now before we attack them in Ashrafieh," he added.

Ashrafieh is one of the last two pockets of the Lebanese Forces in east Beirut. The other one is the low-income district of Nabaa.

A Christmas tree lay askew in the corner of another

Lebanese Forces post where Aoun troops set around boxes of 12mm mortar rounds.

Reporters and photographers were not allowed to go close to the Kasardjien barracks, the Lebanese Forces' main barracks in the area, "because the area around it is still being cleared of mines."

Tanks and armoured personnel carriers rumbled through the dusty streets of Ein Al Rummaneh and Fura Al Shubbak as people emerged from bunkers to take stock of the damage and stockpile food.

Many threw rice on Aoun's troops from balconies strung with Lebanese flags as they shouted, "long live the army. Long live Aoun."

"We have finally seen light," said housewife Mary Shamoun. "The Lebanese Forces was a scam that was squashed by the army. May God safeguard the army and the General (Aoun). I'm ready to die for him."

Some young women were sunbathing on a balcony overlooking a Lebanese Forces armoured personnel carrier that was blocking the narrow alleyway.

"We lived 17 days underground. It's so good to breathe fresh air again," shouted one of them.

Workers were stinging as they collected garbage next to a red Volkswagen in which lay a body wrapped in a plastic bag.

The wife of a Lebanese Forces militiaman, Pierre Helou, was seen sobbing as she hugged her two children in Ein Al Rummaneh.

"My poor children. What has happened to your father?"

## Kabul to block rebel bid to send arms to Tajikistan

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan President Najibullah said Sunday his government had taken action to prevent rebels from smuggling arms to Muslims in the troubled neighbouring Soviet region of Tajikistan.

"We have taken measures. If anyone tries to sneak weapons into the Soviet Union, we have made preparations to stop them. We would never permit such a thing to happen," he told reporters.

Najibullah did not detail what measures would be taken to stop Mujahideen rebels, suspected of trying to stir Muslim revolt in Soviet Central Asia, from getting arms to Tajikistan, where 18 people have been killed in recent riots.

The Mujahideen rebels have been fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government for 11 years.

Najibullah charged Saturday that the rebels are thwarting peace efforts in Afghanistan by making his resignation a precondition for negotiations.

"The extremist groups have put forward this proposal as a pretext for continued war or as an obstacle to a solution of Afghanistan's problems," he said at a news conference.

Najibullah the former head of the dreaded Khat secret police, said his peace plans have been repeatedly rejected by the U.S.-backed rebels, known as the Mujahideen, or Islamic holy warriors.

On Thursday, during an address to the nation on the eve of the first anniversary of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, Najibullah offered the Mujahideen a six-month ceasefire.

So far the rebels have rejected all ceasefires offered by the Soviet-backed Kabul government and have declined to negotiate with Najibullah and his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. They insist he must step down first.

During the news conference, Najibullah blamed the 12-year-old civil war on the "unreconcilability of the various extremist groups in Afghanistan — against the interests or to the neglect of Afghan people, by creating obstacles to the peace process."

Najibullah, who took office in 1986, is one of four successive Soviet-backed leaders to run Afghanistan through a series of internal party coups and power struggles. Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in December 1979 to prop up the government and started withdrawing in May 1988 under a U.N.-sponsored accord.

Soviet leaders say their last soldier crossed the border back to the Soviet Union on Feb. 15, 1989.

Najibullah speaking in his native Dari language through an interpreter, answered questions from foreign reporters for more than an hour at the Foreign Ministry.

He reiterated his Feb. 15 call for new parliamentary elections and said he would accept the results, even if they went against him.

The Mujahideen "consistently claim they control the majority of land in Afghanistan and the majority of the people are with them. If that is so, let's allow free elections and see," he said.

He said one year of independence from Soviet armed support

was evidence of his government's strength and stability, while the "opposition has not only lost credibility in Afghanistan, but also in world public opinion."

Western observers had predicted that the Pakistan-based U.S.-backed rebels would overrun government troops after the Soviet withdrawal, but Najibullah has kept the cities under his control during the past year.

The rebel leadership is concentrated in the hands of seven Afghan groups which range from Islamic fundamentalists to Western-oriented royalists.

The United States uses Pakistan as the conduit to funnel about \$500 million worth of military aid to the rebels each year.

"If we want peace in Afghanistan, arms stockpiles should be evacuated from the republic of Afghanistan under the supervision of the United Nations," Najibullah said.

"If such a policy were implemented, I believe it would not lead to the Balkanisation of Afghanistan, but to strengthening and unity of the country," he said.

Meanwhile a rebel alliance spokesman said Saturday the Iran-based Afghan rebel alliance would take a separate course if a rebel government based in Pakistan went ahead with its election plan.

Karim Khaili told a news conference the rebel "Afghan interim government" (AIG) should dissolve itself and its seven component parties of majority Sunni Muslims should talk with the Iran-based group to reach an agreed election formula.

## Qadhafi arrives for talks with Mubarak

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — Egypt gave Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi a rousing welcome Sunday, shrugging off the caution that previously marked a rapprochement between the long-time foes.

Nubian dancers and children in Pharaonic headress greeted Qadhafi on his arrival in Aswan, his second visit to Egypt since a breakthrough meeting with President Hosni Mubarak in Morocco in May.

The leaders, patching up a quarrel caused partly by Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, were due to drive 25 kilometres in an open motorcade to the Cataract Hotel by the Nile.

Sniffer dogs and security men were leaving nothing to chance,

and the tone of the preparations contrasted sharply with a low-key reception for Qadhafi at the Mediterranean town of Mersa Matruh in October.

Officials said only that the summit would follow others in seeking to improve relations. Mubarak has visited Libya twice since October.

Ministers of both countries are expected to meet separately to discuss cooperation in industry and agriculture, a senior Egyptian official told Reuters.

Egyptian Minister of State for Military Production Gamal Ibrahim will be among them, but there was no indication whether military cooperation was planned.

Asked why Libya remained the

only Arab country which had not resumed diplomatic ties with Egypt, the official said: "As you know they have no embassies and do not believe in diplomatic ties."

Relations between Cairo and Tripoli have been erratic since the early 1970s. The two fought a brief border war in 1977.

The United States, Egypt's main financial donor, has privately expressed concern at Cairo's speedy normalisation of ties with Libya.

Qadhafi was due to be received in a specially-built tent at the airport in deference to his taste for desert life.

Aswan is a stronghold of followers of the late Socialist President Gamal Abdul Nasser, much admired by Qadhafi.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEF

### Saudi papers attack Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabian newspapers Sunday fiercely attacked the Iranian leadership, calling it intellectually retarded and a symbol of terrorism. "Eleven years have passed since the Iranian regime came to power led by (Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini and the regime is still as bloody as when it first started...this regime has become a symbol of intellectual retardation and terrorism," Al Jazeera said.

### ICO asks U.K. to help stop Jewish influx

NICOSIA (R) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has asked Britain to do what it can to halt Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, the Saudi Press Agency said. Hamid Al Ghabed, general secretary of the 46-member body, made the request at a meeting Saturday with Alan Munro, Britain's ambassador to Saudi Arabia. "The OIC is concerned over the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and the Israeli government's intention to settle them in occupied Palestinian territories," the agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Ghabed as saying. He asked Britain, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, to intervene to try to halt the exodus. About 5,000 Soviet Jews a month are arriving in Israel and hundreds of thousands are expected in the next few years. Independent reports say several hundred have settled in the Israeli-occupied areas, scene of a 26-month Palestinian uprising.

### S.Yemen! U.S. stop talks over ties

ABU DHABI (R) — Kuwaiti-mediated talks between the United States and South Yemen about a resumption of diplomatic ties have stopped, South Yemen's foreign minister was quoted Sunday as saying. Abdul Aziz Al Dali told the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Ithad his country was not against normalised relations but would not accept any imposed conditions. He did not say what conditions he meant but added: "We reject that South Yemen supports terrorism." South Yemen last November signed a pact to merge with North Yemen and has announced sweeping reforms to its Marxist political system. It broke ties with Washington one year after gaining independence from Britain in 1968.

### Iraq sets trial date for 2 foreigners

BAGHDAD (AP) — A London-based journalist for the weekly the Observer and a British nurse will go on trial Feb. 26 on spying charges, a British embassy official has said. The official, who spoke Saturday on condition of not being identified further, said Iranian-born reporter Farzad Bazoft and the nurse, Daphne Park, will be tried by the Revolutionary Court. The court specialises in cases of "anti-state activities." The two are charged under article 158 of the Iraqi penal code with "hostile acts against Iraq," with death, or life imprisonment as the maximum penalty. Bazoft, 31, who carries an Iranian passport and has the right of residence in Britain, was traveling on British documents when he was detained while investigating reports that an explosion at a military plant south of Baghdad may have killed as many as 700 people.

## PFLP urges escalation of intifada

NICOSIA (R) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) has called on Palestinians to take up arms against Israel within the occupied territories and across the borders of the Jewish state.

The Damascus-based PFLP also criticised the policies of the PLO-backed leadership of the uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and said the front would not attend proposed Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

"We in the PFLP oppose Israeli-Palestinian talks scheduled to take place in Cairo and will not attend them," it said in a statement received by Reuters in Cyprus Sunday.

"What is needed is more struggle through escalating the intifada (uprising), backing it with fire power... providing it with money and supporting it with guerrilla operations across Arab borders," the statement said.

The statement, dated Feb. 15, criticised the Unified Leadership of the uprising which groups major Palestinian factions.

The leadership has backed the proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo although this was a matter which should be left to the PLO, the statement said.

Egypt and the United States say they are trying to arrange the first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But the efforts have been bogged down over the agenda of the talks and who should represent the Palestinians.

Israel rejected any PLO role in the talks, while the organisation insists that it should name the Palestinians representatives.

Diplomats say the PLO is growing increasingly divided on how to bring about Middle East peace.

The PFLP statement said the PLO's Central Council had "spe-

cially put the condition that the PLO should form the Palestinian delegation and that the Cairo talks would only be a gate leading to an international conference."

Washington, Cairo and Tel Aviv want the Cairo meeting to lead to elections, a reference to Israeli proposals for elections in the occupied territories.

"We leave this matter to the Executive Committee of the PLO to give its stand on it," it said.

The PFLP, a PLO member, has always opposed what it sees as conciliatory policies of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat but says it remains a loyal opposition within the ranks of the PLO.

The statement also criticised what it called "those who consider public relations and signing forms with Israelis the central point of the issue rather than escalating resistance to Israeli occupation through the intifada (uprising)."

## Ethiopia urges fight 'to the bitter end'

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam has called on his country's armed forces to fight "to the bitter end" against Eritrean rebels who have launched large-scale attacks in northern Ethiopia in the past 10 days.

Ethiopia denies a claim by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) that its rebels have captured the Red Sea port of Massawa, but says fierce fighting is going on there.

In an unusual move, Mengistu went on radio and television Saturday night to address the armed forces. He told the soldiers there was no alternative but to fight until a decisive victory over the rebels was won.

He said the EPLF offensive — the latest in a civil war that has been raging in the region since 1962 — was aimed at placing Massawa under the control of the rebels, "foreign masters." He did

not elaborate, but the mainly Muslim Eritreans have for many years received support from countries in the Middle East.

"For Ethiopia, long regarded as the symbol of the freedom and integrity of the black peoples of the world, losing Massawa would amount to the defeat and the shame of the present generation," Mengistu said.

"There is no choice but for the men in uniform and the people's militia to fight the enemy to the bitter end...Ethiopia is not alone at this hour of trial and tribulation."

Mengistu accused the rebels of wantonly destroying food donated by the international community which has been shipped to Massawa for distribution to famine victims in northern Ethiopia.

"In an unparalleled demonstration of its inhuman acts, the enemy is destroying food and

other supplies accumulated under an arrangement worked out between the government and local church-based relief organisations to help compatriots threatened with starvation," he said.

Aid workers have confirmed that the flow of food from Massawa to Asmara, the Eritrean capital, has stopped. But they said it was not clear whether Massawa Port, which is situated on an island connected to the mainland by a causeway, had fallen to the rebels.

Canada, in a statement sent to the Ethiopian government, has accused the EPLF of disrupting the flow of relief supplies to famine victims.

Officials said Canadian Foreign Minister Monique Landry had expressed concern over the latest fighting, and had called on the international community to step up efforts to urge both sides to negotiate for peace.

JORDAN TELEVISION			CHURCHES		
Tel. 773111-19			St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifch. Tel. 810740		
<b>PROGRAMME ONE</b>			Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785		
15:30	Koran	15:45	St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990		
15:45	Programme review	15:55	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440		
15:55	Children's programmes	16:00	De la Salle Church Tel. 661757		
16:00	News summary in Arabic	16:05	Terzian Church Tel. 623366		
16:05	World News	16:10	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541		
16:10	Local programme	16:15	Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543		
16:15	Programme review	16:20	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331		
16:20	News in Arabic	16:25	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561		
16:25	Arabic series	16:30	Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 717151		
16:30	Programme review	16:35	Assyrian International Church Tel. 685326		
16:35	Local programmes	16:40	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812255		
16:40	News summary in Arabic	16:45	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 818817, 654932		
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b>			<b>WEATHER</b>		
16:45	Amman Lapin Fone at Ford	16:50	Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.		
16:50	News in French	16:55	The cold front which affected the country will abate gradually, thus it will be partly cloudy and relatively hot with expected scattered showers.		
16:55	Weekly Sport magazine	17:00	Duhur		
17:00	News in Hebrew	17:05	Maghrib		
17:05	Varieties	17:10	Midnight Caller		
17:10	Empty Nest	17:15			
17:15	News in English	17:20			
17:20	Midnight Caller	17:25			
<b>PRAYER TIMES</b>					
04:53	Fajr	05:11	(Sunrise) Duhur		
11:49	Duhur	12:49	Ash		
14:29	Asr	17:28	Maghrib		
18:46	Isha				

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Winds will be northwesterly moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.  
Amman ..... 3 / 10  
Aqaba ..... 12 / 20  
Dessah ..... 3 / 12  
Jordan Valley ..... 10 / 18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 90 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

**REMO:**  
Dr. Ahmed Al Naqouri ..... (—)  
Al Sharas pharmacy ..... 983238  
Dr. Hussein Mahmoud ..... (—)  
Khalilif pharmacy ..... 983417

**EMERGENCIES**

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341  
Fire Brigade ..... 892228  
Blood Bank ..... 75121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 886390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
University Hospital ..... 843045  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467

Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111

**AMMAN:**  
Dr. Saleem Al Khayyat ..... 891880  
Dr. Mazir Qasbi ..... 898101  
Dr. Joseph Imsh ..... 770560  
Dr. Musa Rashid ..... 610112  
First pharmacy ..... 776336  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 697035  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 623672  
Nawrokh pharmacy ..... 644945  
Al Satam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

**RADIO JORDAN:**  
Water Authority ..... 774111  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-33200  
Queen Aila Int. Airport ..... 08-33200

**HOSPITALS**

**AMMAN:**  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn. .... 6442816  
Al-Balqa Maternity, J. Amn. .... 6424412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642382  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Samsatun Hospital ..... 6641714  
University Hospital ..... 669131  
Al-Munawwar Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/81  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Balqa, Al-Mahajreen ..... 775117/26  
Al-Balqa, J. Amn. .... 891611/15  
Army, Madra ..... 777101/3  
Queen Aila Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674135  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 09/983222  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09/991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... 09/986732

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**



## Ceramics firm begins third expansion project

ZARQA (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inaugurated the third expansion project of the Jordan Ceramic Industries Company (JCIC) in Zarqa and issued public order for the second expansion project.

Nearly 90 per cent of the production is marketed in the King's Palace, while the rest is exported to Iraq and Saudi Arabian markets, according to the company manager.

The Queen was briefed on the functions of the project and the type of products to be produced in the third project. The third project is set on 2,400 square metres at a total cost of JD 200,000.

According to the manager, the factory's third expansion project produces nearly 60,000 tonnes of ceramic products annually.

He said the first and second expansion projects together produced from the June 360,000 tonnes of tiles and



**PERILOUS JOURNEY:** Two schoolgirls dash across an Amman street during a hail in Sunday's downpour, which flooded many streets and exposed many dangerous manholes. (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

## Group to study the social implications of population displacement

AMMAN (J.T.) — A study group on "the social implications of population displacement" will be held at the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology of Yarmouk University.

The study group, headed by Dr. Setaney Shami of the anthropology section of the institute, will also deal with the role of various governmental and international agencies in determining the features of such displacement as well as the processes of resettlement that accompany them.

The participants in the study group will visit a number of development projects in Jordan during their stay as well as some touristic and archaeological sites.

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## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**ACC summit preparations reviewed**

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday gave his final approval to a special committee charged with preparing the Final Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit, which will start in Amman Saturday, Feb. 24. The meeting reviewed final aspects of the summit's preparations and arrangements. A committee statement said the summit would be an "expression of deep faith in and an affirmation of the principles and objectives of the ACC in the ranks of current critical stage through which the Arab states are passing."

The statement of the summit will pave the way for further closer cooperation to what it called "safeguarding national Arab interests and serve the Arab Nation's public relations objectives."

**Religious celebration planned**

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced Sunday a major religious celebration which would be held in Amman Thursday in observance of Al Israa Wal Miraj.

A ministry statement said the celebration would be held at the King Abdullah Martyr's Mosque at Abdali where several prominent religious leaders, including Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Fagir, would address the worshippers. Thursday has been declared a public holiday.

**Arqa Basin project progress reviewed**

AMMAN (Petra) — The ministers of agriculture and planning and the director of the funds and banks financing the JD 32 million Zarqa Arqa Basin project Sunday discussed progress of work at the project, which is expected to start in 1987. The project, covering an area of 825,000 wa to Asma'a, aims to prevent soil erosion and enhance the land's productivity in addition to alleviating deposits at the King Talal water reservoir. The project is being financed by the government, the Arab League, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development, the Saudi Fund for Development, the Islamic Development Bank and a West German Technical Cooperation Agency.

**Labour Ministry, bakers sign agreement**

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour and the Baker's Association Sunday signed an agreement under which the ministry will give the association a grace period to obtain work permits for its members. Officials said the agreement would end on June to rectify the situation of the bakers' workers in accordance with the Labour Law and to give them the right to join unions.

**Geagea seizes base**

(Continued from page 1)

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Military sources said 12 army casualties were taken from the base. The LF-run Voice of Lebanon radio said the army lost 30 killed and 50 wounded, some seriously.

Security sources said at least 17 LF militiamen were killed and 25 wounded during the hand-to-hand battles.

Witnesses said army troops had to pull out after losing control of six villas on a hill overlooking the base.

Political sources said Aoun's conciliatory tone, which saved the commander, came after Syria offered to intervene to end the war and oust Aoun who refused to recognise the internationally-backed Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, supported by Damascus.

Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon ring the Christian enclave.

Witnesses and security sources said there Aoun's men were on top alert around the general's headquarters, the presidential palace in the suburb of Baabda, fearing an attack.

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## 'Trainee' engineers submit petition to King, premier

By Sama Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Trainee" engineers from the Ministry of Education Sunday continued their protest for a second day and submitted their demand for full-time employment under legal contracts to His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

All 70 "trainee" engineers gathered in the heavy rain in front of the Prime Ministry for two hours carrying banners to ensure that their demands reached the prime minister, according to one protester.

In a petition they signed and addressed to King Hussein and

the prime minister, the engineers also pleaded that they not be sent to work in private sector consulting firms without guarantees that they return to their posts at the ministry.

Under a recent proposal made by the Education Ministry, the trainee engineers were to be referred to consulting firms during school projects and dismissed from the ministry. The firms were to decide whether to retain the engineers or to dismiss them after the projects were completed. The engineers strongly rejected this proposal.

In their petition sent to the King and the prime minister, the engineers said that they

had "knocked on all doors but to no avail. This is why we are asking for your kind interference in our case."

The engineers staged their first sit-in Saturday in front of the Parliament building and distributed their demands to Cabinet and Parliament members.

Several deputies told the Jordan Times that they had planned to bring up the subject during Saturday's session of the Lower House, but due to lack of time, they were unable to do so during the last half hour of each session which is devoted to such issues.

The engineers complained

that their monthly salary of JD 120 did not include any benefits such as raises, medical insurance and social security.

The Jordan Engineering Association (JEA) has been up the case and is currently holding talks with the Ministry of Education to find a solution to the problem.

The protesters said they would not accept anything less than what they ask. "We just want to feel secure in our jobs. With legal contracts, we would be sure that we would not lose our positions in the ministry if we work on projects with the private sector," said one of them.

## Jordan moves to keep toxic ship from docking

AMMAN — Jordan has contacted governments in East Africa to ensure that a ship carrying dangerous waste estimated at 20,000 tonnes does not dock along the Aqaba shores, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that upon hearing the news about the ship, Pro-Americana, the environment department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs initiated contacts with concerned governments in East Africa to take precautionary measures to prevent the ship docking at any point along the Aqaba shores. The ship is reported to be searching for a port to dump its cargo.



Abdul Karim Al Dughmi

Jordan, Dughmi said, has banned the dumping of all types of dangerous waste on its territory. Jordan was one of 110 countries that signed an international agreement on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste at a meeting held in the Swiss city of Basel March 20, 1989.

The agreement is intended to help protect the environment and provide for cooperation among Third World countries to combat pollution and protect the environment from toxic waste and other harmful chemicals.

The minister said that Jordan would never allow any toxic material to be dumped in the country at any cost. The ministry has already submitted to the Council of Ministers a proposal to declare Jordan a toxic-free zone.

Earlier this month, Dughmi announced that arrangements were being made for dumping poisonous and dangerous waste from Jordanian factories at remote areas. These areas were selected by specialised teams and cordoned off to prevent any human, agricultural or animal contact with them, according to the minister.

## Meeting opens on use of solar energy in fighting soil problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first international conference on the use of solar energy to tackle soil-related problems will begin in Jordan today with the participation of nearly 80 scientists and specialists in the protection of soil and plants from Arab and foreign countries.

The conference, organised by the University of Jordan and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) will discuss 60 working papers dealing with modern technology for exploiting the Sun's energy to sterilise the soil and to eliminate harmful pests. The conference is designed to help countries increase food production through cheap energy resources, free of chemical materials.

The participants are expected to visit the Jordan Valley to examine agricultural experiments on soil sterilisation being conducted by the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture.

According to Dr. Walid Abu Gharbiel, chairman of a committee preparing for the conference, his department at the faculty of agriculture has conducted several experiments on the use of solar power to fight pests at the University of Jordan's farm in the Jordan Valley. He described these experiments as successful, and said that results have been distributed to the farmers in the valley.

"These experiments resulted in reducing the cost of farming, especially the purchase of chemical pesticides. This led to an increase in production," Gharbiel said. "Each dunum of land now produces seven tonnes of agriculture crops instead of three-and-a-half tonnes," according to Gharbiel.

The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has been spearheading efforts in Jordan for solar energy research.

RSS plans to convene an Arab international solar energy conference in November of this year.

The November conference is expected to review working papers dealing with solar radiation, wind energy, thermal applications, bioconversion, passive solar architecture, heating and cooling and hydrogen production among other topics.

Amendments made by the association to its internal regulations, Obaidat said, are illegal, because they are not in line with the provisions of the association's regulations, which require notifying the Ministry of Labour within a period of no more than two weeks from the date of amendments for the ministry's approval.

"The amendments already made by the association have neither been approved by, or registered with the ministry. So whatever consequences or implications that might arise as a result would be considered null and void," Obaidat said. He added that such a situation calls for a "remedial" action on the part of the association to ensure adherence to its regulations.

## Jordan, Iraq to establish air squadron

(Continued from page 1)

should be turned into a substitute homeland for Palestinians.

Jordan and Iraq have long-standing mutual defence and military cooperation agreements. In August 1988, Iraq gave Jordan 150 captured Iranian tanks, as well as reconnaissance vehicles and motorised troop carriers.

Last year, Israel complained that Iraqi jets were flying near Jordan's western border with Israel.

Jordanian officials did not deny the allegation, but said Israel has no right to complain about flights over Jordanian territory.

In Israel, Army Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Dan Shomron was quoted as saying Israel was not concerned about the reports of a joint training squadron formed by the Iraqi and Jordanian air forces.

The chief of staff and several political leaders noted, however, that they saw no reason for Jordan to feel threatened.

"I don't see who's threatening them. Who is threatening them?" Vice Premier Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Party, asked in a conversation with reporters.

Moshe Shahal, the Iraqi-born energy minister and also a member of Labour, said he believed the air agreement would lead to Iraqi pilots flying over Jordan.

## Israelis kill schoolgirl

(Continued from page 1)

rallying point for opposition to current peace moves.

In the cabinet, Sharon had campaigned to limit Shamir's room for negotiations with Palestinians. After formally submitting his resignation Sunday morning, he made clear he opposed the entire process.

"I will continue my struggle from the outside," the former tank commander and architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon said on leaving the cabinet meeting.

Sharon remains Central Committee chairman in Likud where an outspoken minority appears to support his goal of ousting Shamir as leader. His resignation as trade minister takes effect Tuesday.

He is determined to derail Shamir's proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories to choose representatives who would negotiate with Israel.

Washington is trying to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo to prepare for such elections but Sharon said Israel should tell the Americans bluntly it is not interested.

An opportunity to challenge Shamir for the leadership would come only with the break-up of the current broad coalition government, which appears stable after 14 months of periodic internal squabbling and threats from Labour Party members to pull out.

"I am going to start a long march from town to town, from place to place, both in Israel and abroad," Sharon said of his plans to campaign against Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Sharon's resignation was the latest in a long career of attention-grabbing manoeuvres in both the army and politics that have deeply divided public opinion.

## Petra Bank staff to stage protest

(Continued from page 1)

said that the word "strike" was not mentioned in the JBEIA announcement, and that Tuesday's actions would be a protest.

Amal said the association must "observe the law and work within the law. The labour law stipulates that initial negotiations take place under an arbitration committee, then an arbitration council, and finally taken to an industrial tribunal to pass a final agreement between the parties in dispute."

"The negotiations were still in the beginning stages under the arbitration committee," he said. "We asked the labour minister to postpone today's (Sunday) meeting because we could not attend this time, but we have already participated in previous meetings in the past two weeks," he explained.

He added that the management committee should not be expected to find quick solutions to problems built up over the years. He said, however, that the management was considering "with favour reasonable demands of the staff to improve the benefits of employees to a maximum possible level, although the bank is not making any profit. We want what is in the best interest of Petra."

Referring to the scheduled protest, Amal expressed regret that the employees decided to protest at this time, and questioned why they did not do so five years ago when their demands were not met.

He added that the management would not allow the JBEIA to "twist our arms and we refuse to be pressured by politicised considerations. We are not politicians." The management will have to discuss the issue and how best to solve the problem with the government, he said.

Petra Bank employees expressed worry over the way the management committee was handling their demands.

One branch manager who spoke on condition of anonymity told the Jordan Times that the management committee "has failed to put the bank on its feet."

"Because they failed, we are afraid that they (management) will use us employees as scapegoats and use us as an excuse to close down the bank," he said.

During the two previous rounds of negotiations, the

management has apparently agreed in principle to some of the demands of the employees, according to Hammad. He said that the management agreed to amend the financial structure of the staff and to ensure their full financial rights regarding raises, medical coverage and compensations.

"The management also agreed to reassess the employees' savings funds and to return the money that the bank invested in areas not in the interest of the employees," he said. "They also agreed that concerned parties and institutions support and protect Petra bank and its employees."

In addition, the management had agreed to put an end to the "public slander against the bank which results in a negative effect on the morale of the employees. They had also agreed in principle to publicly bring to account all those involved in financial corruption and embezzlement in the past and present," Hammad said.

He added that the association also called on the management to put an end to dismissal of employees, and restate those who were already fired makes it was proven that they had actually committed an illegal act.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

- EXHIBITIONS**
- An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Chereau, Messiaen, Minochikine, Flanchon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
  - A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
  - An exhibition of paintings by Alla Ammoun, Nabila Elhad and Nawal Abdallah at Abdul Hameed Shomran Foundation (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
  - A photography exhibition by Samer Al Tal at the Yarmouk University.
  - An exhibition of stamp collection of the Arab Cooperation Council countries at Jordan Electricity Authority.
  - An Iraqi book exhibition at the Mar'a University.
  - An exhibition entitled "Twenty years of French contribution to studying Syrian archaeology" at the Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology at Yarmouk University.
- FILMS**
- Soviet documentaries at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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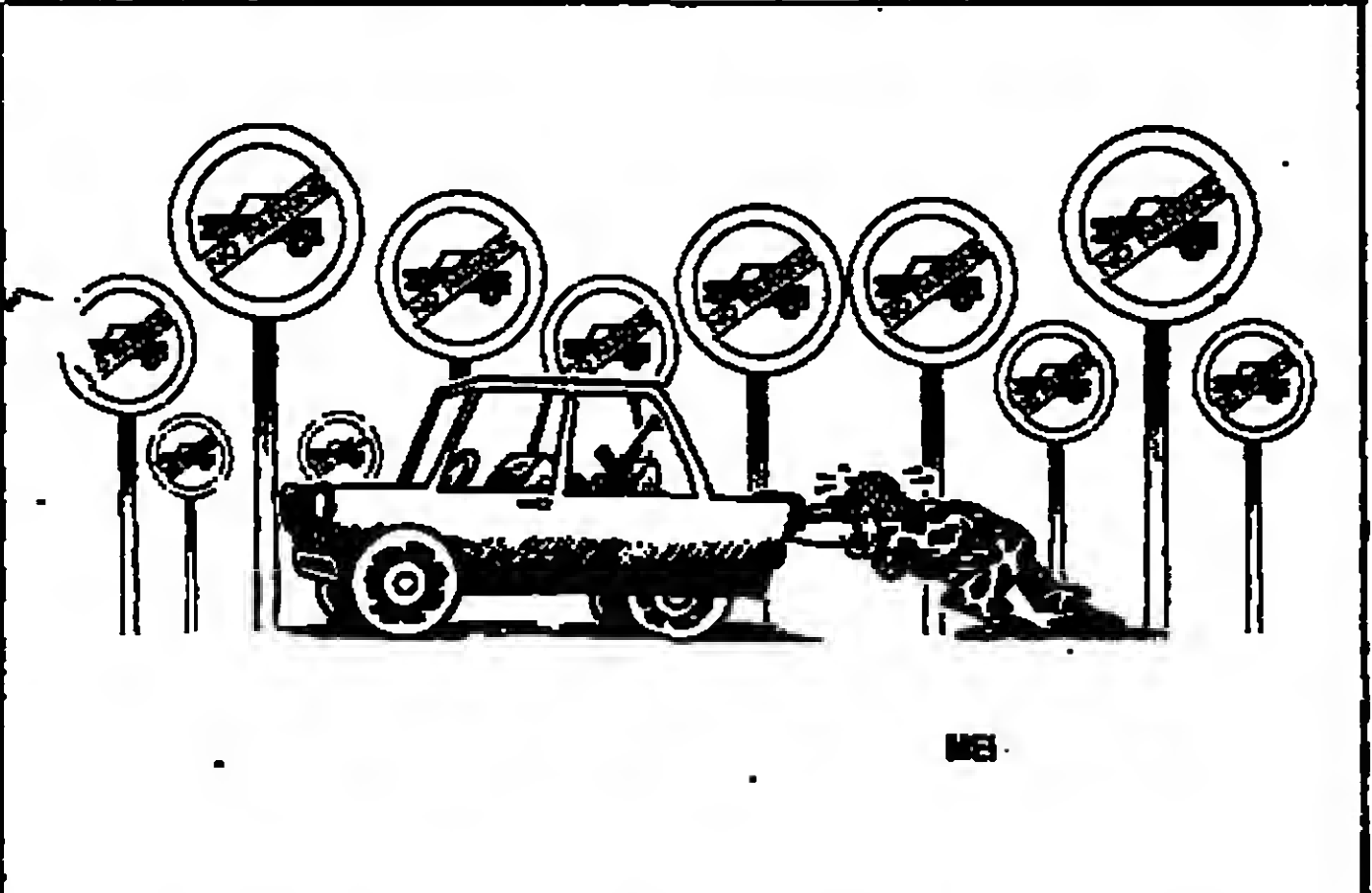
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## Lopsided stance

IT IS most unfortunate and disturbing that several members of Parliament argued during Saturday's session against the repeal of the 1953 anti-communism law on grounds that such a step would be unconstitutional. The same very deputies were among the early people who cried out for democracy and freedom of expression and championed the return of parliamentary life. How they can reconcile their yearning for democracy and freedom of thought and expression with their present attitude on the anti-communism law, we do not know. If their sense of democracy and free expression would mean the denial of freedom of thought for others then there is something very wrong with the process of democracy in the country. We are not defending communism per se. History and recent events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are a better judge of that. But by the same token, we are not questioning or quarrelling with the fact that Jordan is a Muslim country and that this principle is duly incorporated in the Constitution of the land. But one is at a loss when confronted with the thesis of such diehard anti-communist members of Parliament who construe the Islamic nature of the country as the repudiation of every other thought or view which is contrary to Islam. To cite one easy example about the deficiency of the legal rationale of the Islamist deputies who would prefer to keep that infamous anti-communism law in the law books of Jordan, one would readily ask such people whether they intend to prevent pan-Arab nationalists or any other group in the country from believing and adhering to their thoughts and rights. Let them forget, a reminder to those deputies who professed great concern about lack of democracy before the Nov. 8 national elections in the Kingdom: the same very anti-communism legislation was often invoked in the past not only against communists but also against all those who expressed a point of view which was compatible with government policy.

The kind of democracy the country seeks and worked so hard to have is definitely not the kind that some members of Parliament are practising. Definitely, the democracy the country needs is not the one that gives some of us the right to speak out and denies it to others. This would indeed be a lopsided democracy that the Kingdom can ill afford.



## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday highlighted statements made by Prime Minister Mudar Badran in which he referred to His Majesty King Hussein's talks with the Saudi monarch that reflected joint stands. The paper said Riyadh realises the importance of safeguarding Jordan as a fortress, defending the whole Arab nation and protecting the Arab order. The paper referred to the economic crisis in Jordan and said that Saudi Arabia's full understanding of the situation in the Kingdom is a very important element; and Arab countries support for this country is essential so that Jordan can pursue its national role in full. King Hussein and King Fahd have both come to agreement on various Arab issues, and both have expressed the desire to have a summit meeting for all the Arab heads of state, provided ample preparations have been made first, the paper noted. The paper said that King Hussein's visit was highly successful and manifested the close ties between the two kingdoms in the face of the common challenges and under the current difficult circumstances.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises a system under which the government retires employees who have not yet reached the age of 60. Salah Abdul Samad says that many analysts believe that this practice is aggravating the problem of unemployment in Jordan since the early-retired people normally turn to the private sector where they become employed once again, earning income in addition to the pension they receive from the government thus depriving university graduates from the opportunity to work. Furthermore, retiring people who have a lot of experience tends to weaken the public administration system in the country because the new appointees can never make up for the quality of their predecessors, the writer notes. He suggests that the Civil Service Commission interfere and put an end to early retirement among government employees and save the country from further complications.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented Sunday on the situation in Lebanon in the light of the ongoing battles between the two warring Christian factions. The paper said that the vicious struggle for power between the two factions calls for a collective Arab action to stop the bloodshed and the loss of innocent civilian lives. Failure on the part of the Arab Nation to confront its common Israeli enemy, has no doubt caused the internal troubles within the Arab countries; and the Arabs have almost forgotten the occupation of Palestine and turned their guns on one another in a futile conflict that can only please Israel, the paper noted. The paper said that the Taif agreement which brought about the election of a new president in Lebanon, and the legitimate government of Elias Hrawi can and should help to put an end to the long ordeal.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Who would dominate in next elections?

By Waleed Sadi

THERE are growing speculations that once the projected National Charter is adopted and political parties created a new political environment would have been created necessitating elections in the country. The fact that the existing election law suffers from many shortcomings and loopholes would in due course call for their rectification in which case yet another set of conditions would have to prevail before fresh elections are conducted on sounder bases. Perhaps it is pure conjecture at this point in time to speculate when such new national elections would occur; nevertheless all signals and indicators point to the proposition that new elections are imminent in the course of the next two or three years.

Such projections have in turn contributed to additional speculations about the results of any such elections when they in fact take place. Paramount on the minds of analysts is the strengths and weaknesses of the various political parties that presumably would be competing against one another. Of particular importance is whether the Islamists among the various blocks stand to increase their share of parliamentary power or suffer a defeat. In my humble opinion, it is almost a safe bet to project the Islamists as the biggest winners in the next elections for the following reasons:

First, at best, the economic and fiscal conditions are projected at this point in time to stabilise. Unemployment and inflation are accordingly projected to stabilise, but the likelihood of worsening situation cannot be excluded. It is also a well known proposition that people, any people for that matter, fall back to religion when things get tougher. It is amazing how people start remembering

and practising their respective religions when they face hardships. Of course that is not how things should be. Religion is supposed to be remembered and practised at all times, especially when things are good in order first to be thankful and then wishful that they may continue. Still human nature is such that people turn to religion mostly when they discover that mundane ways are not sufficient to redress their dire situations and difficulties.

Second, the political situation in the Middle East is also projected to worsen especially with the Palestinian conflict anticipated to be kept on hold and unresolved and the Arab order unable, or much worse unwilling to respond and react positively to the mushrooming changes that are occurring every day by leaps and bounds all around it. Again a feeling of loss and bewilderment would usher in a stronger religious climate in the Kingdom especially in view of the proposition that religion offers the kind of answers that people in distress would be yearning for most. It will be recalled in this context that Islam is a complete religion that offers panacea to everything that could occur to the minds of Muslims. That is why one sees another strong opportunity for the Islamists to expand and consolidate their forces everywhere in Jordanian life. One already discerns that the network of Islamist activity spreads in every direction both horizontally and vertically with no end in sight.

Third, the recent events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have in effect pulled the rug from under the leftist forces who stand to be the Islamists' primary competitor. The promises and platforms of the leftists are so undermined now that they can

no longer be expected to offer any stiff resistance to any advances made by the Islamists forces. The heyday of the left and their appeal, glory and charm have obviously faded if not ended for as long as one can see. Again here the Islamists are well positioned to capitalise on the demise of the extreme left in the world and make additional gains when it is time for Jordanians to cast their votes once again.

Fourth, the moderate political forces are not likely to salvage much of their present strength in the parliament. The conditions within the country and outside it are not exactly the kind on which traditional moderation can be nurtured and developed. Moderation would stand a reasonable chance to score major successes if it were to stand a reasonable chance in the cards and unless a miracle or two fall on the country, the moderate forces are in for bigger surprises in the next national elections. In the same vein, the moderates would be deceived if they comfort themselves by the erroneous belief that their lack of success in the November elections was due in no small part to the low turnout from the moderate Jordanian electorate. It appears more likely than not that any increase in the number of voters in the future would be to the advantage of the Islamists and not the moderates. The climate in the country now and in the foreseeable future is also not favourable to the moderates, especially because they have not been fully associated with reformation within the country and have joined the bandwagon of change reluctantly and belatedly.

## Distant voices of dissent

By John Pilger

TRIUMPHANT clichés that the "West has won" in Eastern Europe are incessant in the British media. They echo Margaret Thatcher's pronouncement that "our values" have been adopted: a theme ordained by liberal commentators as received truth.

With honourable exceptions, the coverage of Europe's upheaval has been so beset by jingoism, from the bellicose to the insidious, that the nature of change, and the emerging hopes and alternatives, have been obscured.

Czechoslovakia is a case in point. In 1977 I interviewed many of the Charter 77 people shortly after their organisation was forced underground. I was much moved by their political and intellectual courage in seeking democratic forms of their own. They were adamant in rejecting, as one of them put it, "the way of Washington, German, London."

They knew that, just as socialism had been subverted in their own country, so democracy had been degraded in the West. I attended a secret meeting in Prague in which speaker after speaker warned of the dangers of adopting the "values" embodied in NATO, an organisation which had legitimised the Brezhnev Doctrine and thereby reinforced their own oppression.

It also understood — unlike many of us in the West — that state power in the democracies is enforced not with tanks but with illusions, notably that of free expression: in which the voice of the people is heard by what it says is subject to legislation and a pliant media. The American sage Walter Lippman, cited by Noam Chomsky, called this the "manufacture of consent" and warned that such "false consensus" could render a free society passive and obedient.

In 1977 the banned Czech writer Zdenek Zeman told me, "You in the West have a problem. You are unsure when you are being lied to, when you are being tricked. We do not suffer from this; and unlike you, we have acquired the skill of reading between the lines."

In Britain today we need to develop this skill urgently, for as freedom is being gained in the East, it is being lost here. Our New Age is to be an information society, the product of a "communications revolution" as Rupert Murdoch likes to call it. But this is a fraud. We are being led not into an information society but a media society to which unrestricted information is a threat.

The narrowness of the British media, our primary source of information, is a national disgrace. This is not to say the Sun, the "market leader," is a mere comic; on the contrary, it is an intensely ideological propaganda sheet with a coherent world view of our New Age society; one in which you stand on your own two feet, pull yourself up by your bootstraps and trust nobody; one in which money is what matters — the "bottom line" — not to mention women; looking on at misfortune and violence. Objections to this are "loony," Mrs. Thatcher has said as much.

The damage runs deep. Racism, for example, is all but acceptable. "The Press," says a Rummyed Trust report, "plays a very significant role in maintaining and strengthening and justifying racism at all levels of society, providing a cover for racist activity, especially racist violence..."

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The "quality press" is very different from the Sun and its pale shadows, but there are common strands. Censorship by omission is one; and I wonder if younger journalists on the serious newspapers are aware of the subtle influences of Murdochism on their own work, notably the cynicism.

When in recent times have the now numerous and voluminous Sunday quality papers published anything that might pose a sustained challenge to the status quo. Salman Rushdie's brilliant defence of his work in the Independent on Sunday was an exception. Increasingly, laudatory commentary and tombstones of

Edip. Tirana angrily denounced the reports as malicious slander by neighbouring states in which it said conservative forces were trying to destabilise Albania.

But even Albanian Communist party leader Ramiz Alia saw the funny side of the stories. He visited a tractor factory near Tirana recently and the workers erupted in laughter when he told them with a smile what the Yugoslav media had reported about Albania, according to one source who said he heard the encounter on the radio.

The only uproar I have witnessed was an enraged old man cursing his neighbour loudly on the street for failing to buy for him, as promised, a new foam mattress on sale in Tirana shops this week.

There is no sign that unrest has occurred, nor that it will occur in the immediate future. The Romanian syndrome does not seem to exist in Albania.

"Romania's (Nicolae) Ceausescu was a dictator. But we have no dictator here," said one Albanian intellectual. "The people here actually support the Communist party."

In Eastern Europe Communism was imposed by the Soviet Union upon countries which had

vacuous stylism, owing much to the language of advertising, occupy the space of keen writing and provocative journalism. In the Observer a recently hired columnist, who on his first day wondered who he was and what he stood for, still apparently wonders. In the same pages a famous exhibitionist is brought back from television to continue his self-celebration and empty repertoire. Perhaps this is meant as parody; certainly it is a metaphor.

Most of the quality press shares the same triumphalism as the Sun. The New Age corporate truth is upon us; there is nothing to challenge and scant need of a second opinion, except as a token, because everyone is agreed: "We" have won.

On Eastern Europe, a genteel McCarthyism is evident. Communists are "on the run" or sinking away from "irrefutable" truth that the free market system "works." Such simplistic nonsense, however decorous in word and display, remains simplistic nonsense. Let there be a free-ranging critique of Communism, whatever Communism may mean, but let there also be an equally rigorous review of "liberal capitalism." For these days it is barely mentioned that a world war is being fought by "the system that works" against the majority of humanity; a war over foreign debt which has interest as its main weapon, a war whose victims are millions of malnourished and dying children.

Television news, from which most people learn about the world, is a moving belt of headlines, caricatures and buzz-words, with pretensions that it is otherwise. In this way the Russian threat pervaded the nightly cold war saga of good guys and bad guys; and the habit is hard to break. The bad guys may have slipped from view, but the principal good guys cannot be deserted.

"It's up to the United States," we are told, "to sort out its Central American backyard." The coverage of the American invasion of Panama was not quite

as bad as in the United States. There were dissenting voices in the British media, but they were not well-informed and so served to legitimise the accredited truth; that the whole fiasco was a cowboy-and-Indians pursuit of Old Finspeagle Face.

Noriega, of course, had precious little to do with it. George Bush ran the CIA when Noriega was his man, and drugs has long been a CIA currency. The aim was to put Panama, its canal and its U.S. base under direct American sovereignty, managed by other Noriegas. The Panamanian police chief appointed by Washington, Juan Guizado, is the same thug whose troops attacked the presidential candidates last May.

Consider how our perspective is shaped. It now seems certain that more than 2,000 Panamanians were killed in the American bombardment; more than died at the hands of the People's Liberation Army in Peking last June. And which victims do we remember, I wonder, and the politicians honour? Not those in Panama, to be sure.

Thus, our "manufactured consent," allows our government to the American invasion, having condemned for a decade the Vietnamese expulsion of the genocidal Pol Pot.

In this book McCarthy And the Press, Edwin P. Bailey, a distinguished American reporter of the 1950s, reveals how he and his colleagues became the tools of McCarthyism by reporting "objectively" propaganda and seldom challenging its assumptions.

In Britain today, the "free market and a strong State" doctrine belong to another "ism," but many of its effects are no less menacing and its dangers no less great, not least the process of indoctrination itself.

The Thatcher government's secret legislation is as draconian and sweeping as the notorious "loyalty pledges" of the McCarthy period.

Old-style civil servants, with a genuine sense of public service, are being replaced by the new

"privateers" who, as recent disclosures about the water industry demonstrate, are prepared to show their loyalty to government by misleading the public. This is a trend throughout the bureaucracy.

"Loyalists" are being introduced at every level of the health service to implement the White Paper, perhaps to dismantle the NHS by stealth. The doctors and nurses understand this "hidden agenda." But it is not the message reaching the public because the media, too, has its powerful loyalists.

When there is to be an effective opposition to a plethora of laws which give this country a distinction shared with no other Western democracy, that of legislated silence and sycophancy, at virtually every level of current affairs journalism. Not a single broadcasting institution has challenged in court the government edict that makes criminals of television and radio journalists who interview certain Irish politicians, including those elected to Westminster.

Moreover, propaganda today bears little likeness to its historic models. Since 1979, the public relations and advertising industries have developed as powerful instruments of government propaganda. Consider the share-issue campaigns in which millions of pounds have been spent promoting the sale of public assets. Today, almost half of all advertising is originated by central government.

Has it been forgotten that a genuinely free society must forge the link between Macaulay's "fourth estate of the realm" and the rights of liberty and political democracy for all? This is the heart of it. A gathering silence ensures that freedom, real freedom, is denied; that nine million British working people will continue to live on or below the Council of Europe's "poverty threshold" and one in four British children will experience poverty, thousands of them incarcerated in bed and breakfast hotels and on crumbling estates.

There are millions of Britons like that; another, unseen nation not far from the bijou doors and Roman blinds, and who are now so crushed they are probably unable to share a vision of anything. And what if they did? Lech Walesa's revolution could not happen in Britain, where the right to strike and the right to assemble and associate have been virtually destroyed. Those rights being fought for and restored with democratic zeal in Eastern Europe are those under review and in receivership here — Habeas Corpus, trial by a jury, the right to silence, and so on. No other regime has been brought before the European Commission on Human Rights as often as that of the U.K.; and no other has so often been found guilty.

The Thatcher government understands the importance of media immeasurably more than its predecessors. That is why the disastrous Broadcasting Bill is being hurried through parliament. "Economic analysis," noted a Home Office study, "tends to view broadcasting as an economic commodity — a service from which consumers derive satisfaction much as they might from a kitchen appliance and whose value to society should be assessed accordingly."

That is the doctrine of the British revolution in which the price of "consumer satisfaction" is a state progressively short of all countervailing power. There is no counter revolution, of course; we have not yet learned to read between the lines. But there is a profound unease. When will journalism express this? When will Macaulay's link be forged? When will journalists and broadcasters break their supine silence and reaffirm surely the most vital and noble obligation of their craft: that of warning people when their rights are being taken away, and of reminding them of the historical consequences of vigilance lost. "The struggle of people (against power)," wrote Milan Kundera, "is the struggle of memory against forgetting." The Guardian.

"The problems which precipitated the speedy change in Eastern Europe have been resolved in Albania through our (Socialist system)." Deputy Foreign Minister Sokrat Pliska told Reuters in an interview on Friday.

## Albania looks immune to change

By Peter Humphrey Reuter

TIRANA — Isolated Albania is clearly no East European domino.

Oldstyle Communist governments have fallen, rocked by the winds of Soviet reform, but not a single tremor is detectable in this Balkan Communist state of three million people.

During a week in Albania, which included a stay in the sleepy capital Tirana and other major towns such as Skodra and Elbasan, free contacts with students and journalists, and formal interviews with officials, I have found no evidence of unrest.

There are no bodies strung from lamp posts to deter people from rising up against Communism, despite Greek media reports to that effect a month ago.

Statues of Stalin and Lenin remain unmolested on their pedestals in the dusty centre of Skodra, in northern Albania.

To suggest that these statues were toppled by an angry mob last month, as reported by media in neighbouring Yugoslavia, draws a chuckle or two.

Edip. Tirana angrily denounced the reports as malicious slander by neighbouring states in which it said conservative forces were trying to destabilise Albania.

But even Albanian Communist party leader Ramiz Alia saw the funny side of the stories.

He visited a tractor factory near Tirana recently and the workers erupted in laughter when he told them with a smile what the Yugoslav media had reported about Albania, according to one source who said he heard the encounter on the radio.

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"Romania's (Nicolae) Ceausescu was a dictator. But we have no dictator here," said one Albanian intellectual. "The people here actually support the Communist party."

In Eastern Europe Communism was imposed by the Soviet Union upon countries which had

a traditional antipathy towards the Russians.

Albania's Communist party was essentially indigenous and is independent from foreign interference. The Albanians broke out of the Soviet bloc in 1961.

Unlike Romania, where Ceausescu's overthrow in December was triggered by pent-up rage after decades of misrule and deprivation, Albanian shops and markets, although austere and often dilapidated, are well-stocked with vegetables and basic necessities easily affordable on the basic Albanian monthly wage of 400 to 500 leks (about \$65).

Meat is the only important commodity in short supply, and the authorities are encouraging small-scale private stock-breeding to ease the situation.

Since visiting a year ago, more consumer goods have appeared on the shelves, and more modern fashions, especially blue jeans and trendy leather jackets, are sported by young people.

There are more leisure centres. The smoke-filled cafes where Albanians drink brandy and coffee and eat sweet cream cakes have been smartened up. Some which appeared to have been closed a year ago are now open

again.

"We may be poorer than all the other countries in Europe, but we feel that our standard of living is improving step by step and we want to continue to develop in our own way, independently," said a student.

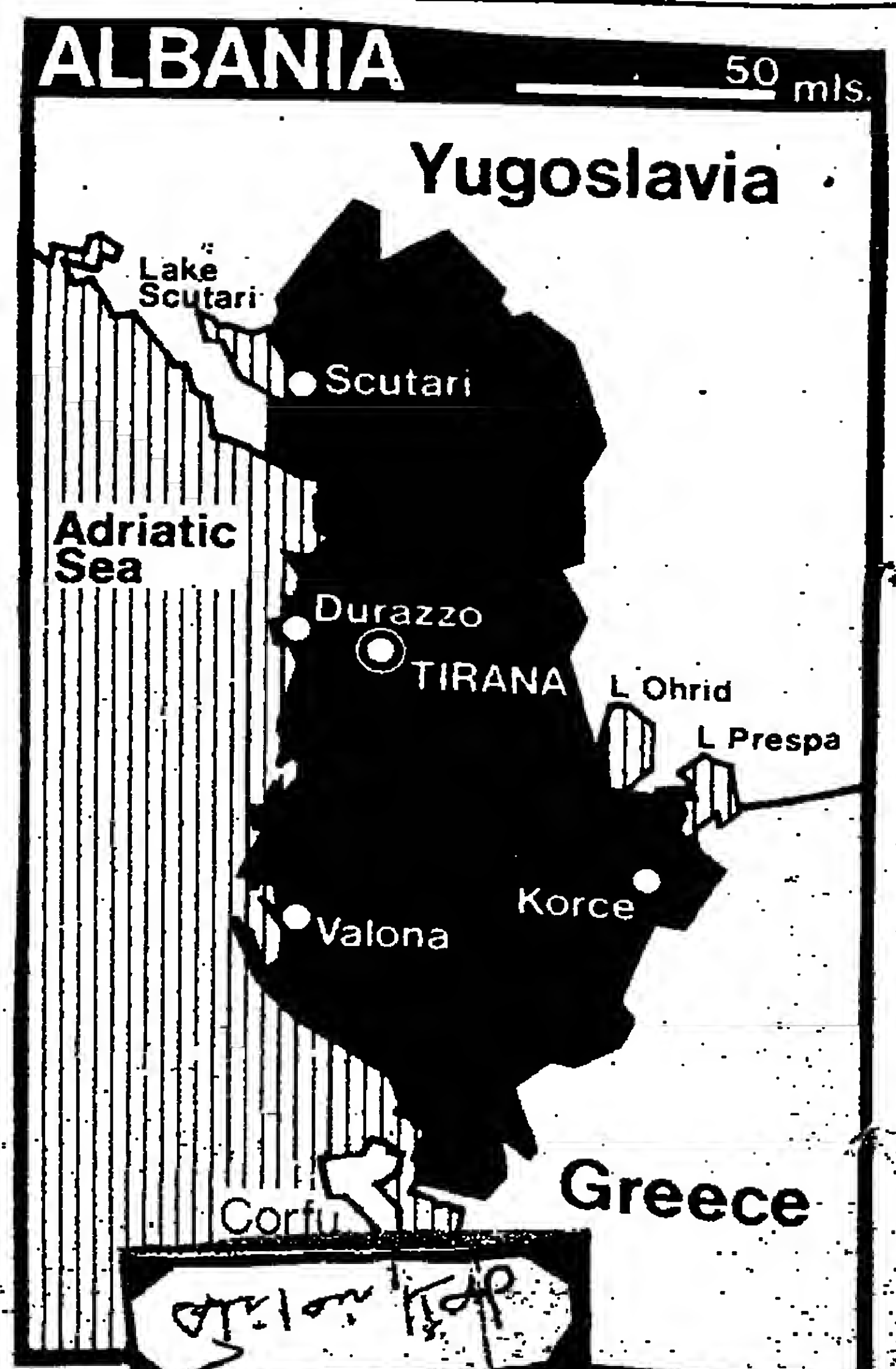
"Before World War two hardly any Albanian could read and there was hardly any industry at all," he said.

A resident Western diplomat said he believed some Albanians were impatient to enjoy a higher living standard but that most compared their present situation with pre-war poverty and squalor rather than the luxury of the West.

"You will not see major upheavals like Eastern Europe in Albania for many years," the diplomat said.

"And there is no sign that the country will give up its Socialist system in the near future even though they are attempting some limited economic reforms to boost productivity."

"The problems which precipitated the speedy change in Eastern Europe have been resolved in Albania through our (Socialist system)." Deputy Foreign Minister Sokrat Pliska told Reuters in an interview on Friday.





## The tribulations of a psychic healer

By Jan Miller

**BAGUIO CITY, The Philippines** — The mas is a cross between a flashy movie star, a flamboyant politician, a hotelier and a faith healer. Fame has reached him; he only moves around surrounded by body guards. Not only was he the mayor of this bustling resort city, but he claims to have healed a host of personalities, including former Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, of whom he is a staunch supporter.

Visiting Ramon "Jun" Labo Jr. at his mountain-side inn is like walking into a scene out of a surrealistic theatre. Picture a dimly-lit room, full of shadows. After a moment, the features of a hotel lobby come into focus: a long reception desk, plush sofas, a mirrored ceiling.

A middle-aged Japanese woman in a shiny blouse and leather trousers leans over the counter. Cigarette smoke shrouds her pallid face, then curls through her permed and powdered hair. Across from her is a Filipino desk attendant, his head resting in his hand, and between the two a half-completed jigsaw puzzle waits.

A whisper comes from a corner. A tiny woman beckons from behind a desk which stands like a sentry at the top of a dark staircase. With a puzzled expression, she looks from the visitor to a ledger open in front of her. "Are you here for a healing?" she asks. Her voice is husky as she peers through glasses as thick as janitor bottoms. No, the visitor answers, "I'm here to visit the mayor."

With a surprised look on her face she signals towards a red velvet sofa. "Just wait," she says. Far off in this Asian island, there is a distinct, oddly Western feel about the place. It's like a cross between a night club and a ski lodge. Yet many details are Japanese: lampshades, ashtrays, calendars. Along the walls are faded colour photographs — vintage 1970 — peopled by women in mini-skirts and men in business suits. Each picture features a dapper little man with a wide, showman's smile. This must be the famous Labo.

Suddenly, there is a commotion. In he comes, emerging from the bright clouds and mist of an empty parking lot, surrounded by a coterie of attendants and bodyguards. His impish face is just the same as on the photographs, but now he's smoking. At 56, he looks tired, grim-faced. He is dressed like a television variety show host. On one wrist he wears a gold watch, on the other a diamond bracelet.

All at once, people — camera-packing Germans, Filipinos and Japanese — materialise out of nowhere and shuffle towards him, excited. He waves and keeps on walking. In a moment, the group disappears up the stairs. In spite of all the glitz, Labo is not a happy man. Local sources say he is wary of the press and rarely grants interviews, but today, he will make an exception. He has just returned from the capital, Manila, where he took part in a march to protest Philippine President Corason Aquino's refusal to allow the body of the ousted dictator to be returned to his native land. Back in Baguio, the Philippines "City of Pines," Labo denies what he calls "the brutality of Cory." He says that the Supreme Court, which supported the decision to prevent the return of Marcos' corpse, is inherently biased. The same Supreme Court recently rejected Labo's own appeal over his disputed citizenship. The Commission on Immigration and Deportation ruled that Labo was an American citizen (the result of an earlier marriage; his current wife is Japanese). He fought the ruling and is still bitter about losing.

The court's decision lost him the right to serve as mayor of Baguio, even though he won a 1987 election. As mayor, he had made plans of promises: to build a foreign-funded "mini-Disneyland," to install a cable car to bring in tourists, and to build the biggest golf course in Asia. But all his grandiose plans were dashed to the ground when he was forced to give up his position after barely two years in office. Labo makes no secret of his political beliefs: "I am a Marcos man," he proudly asserts. "I think it is the right time for Cory to make the right decision and send Marcos back," he adds in halting, unsteady English. And if she doesn't? "Then there will be a revolution for sure."

Labo and his wife, Yoko, own a tea factory in Japan, and that along with his lucrative hotel-healing business, has made him a wealthy man. All the people who come to the hotel come to be healed. Meanwhile, he drives around in a restored 1935 white Rolls Royce, and his bodyguards follow in a new four-wheel driven van equipped with a two-way radio and a video screen. "I am still poor, but I am rich at heart," Labo notes cryptically.

Labo considers himself a healer and he includes his political activities under that term. His style, Las Vegas taste and blusteriness are not unique, but his skills as a "psychic surgeon" are something special.

Labo claims to have cured scores of people of cancer, diabetes and other ailments — he refuses to discuss Marcos' disorders, but says he treated him regularly from 1983 to 1986. He says he also treated lots of other famous people, but declines to name names. In fact he is not eager to divulge much about his mysterious craft. He knew he was psychic at the age of 9, he says, and adds that meditation, not training, taught him how to heal. "I often saw lots of images," he explains. "Sometimes I heard voices telling me what to do. That's how I developed this gift."

"My mother is a gifted dentist, which is psychic healing, she pulls people's teeth out without using anaesthesia. So I was brought up with this." When pressed to explain what he is actually doing when he "operates," he merely says: "This is a gift of God."

The operating procedure itself is a peculiar mix of showmanship and dirty work. Half-naked patients mill around a crowded waiting room until Labo gives a signal, at which point they rush one by one to the operating table. When he has a new patient, he says, he "reads" their problems from a white sheet of paper he holds up in front of them, but with repeat customers, he just digs in.

With an impressive face, he uses his bare hands and seemingly plunges his fingers into the flesh. Blood spurts out. He digs deeper and pulls out a gory mass of string-like material and lumps of flame and holds it up for people to see. In some cases, he performs a stunningly realistic feat



Ramon "Jun" Labo Jr. has had his share of troubles in 1989, but he still promises to help the believers who come from all over the world to be cured.

which consists in removing what looks like the patient's entire eyeball, cleaning it and putting it back in its socket.

Blood, gore and guts appear before the eyes of the spectator, but it is difficult to see where it all comes from. When Labo moves on to another part of the patient's body, his assistants wipe the first area clean of blood, and there is nothing there — no mark, no scar, no evidence that the skin has been broken.

Labo works at lightning speed — spending less than a minute on each patient. Several come under his nimble hands two or three times in a session, but after 20 minutes, the day's healing is done.

There are several of these psychic healers in the Philippines, but Labo is the best known, attracting people from all over the world. One of his assistants allegedly admitted that he goes down to the market to buy chicken blood, and tests have apparently shown that the tangle of guts and tissue that supposedly comes out of the patients is not human.

Still, like watching a magician pull a dove out of a handkerchief, it is impossible to see where the blood and guts are coming from. Labo works with bare arms, his sleeves rolled up, and the operat-

ing table seems free of any secret compartments. Labo lets people take pictures, even close up. While traditional doctors dismiss it all as trickery, patients claim the "treatment" really works.

Among recent patients is Dr. Manfred Irion, 38, a chemist who came all the way from West Germany to seek a cure for multiple sclerosis and a severe bladder infection. West German doctors have been unable to cure him of either complaint, Irion says. He heard of Labo from a satisfied patient and felt that flying to the Philippines and paying \$500 for a 10-day treatment was worth it. After three days, he still hoped for complete recovery.

"People told me I would have to believe in order to be cured. I don't know. At this point, I can say that I believe the things he is taking out of me were really in my body," Irion says. "I am a scientist, but I still believe there are things in the world that science can't explain."

Nor, it would seem, can Labo himself. I any case, it seems that for the time being, his healing practice is not his top priority. "Now back to politics," he exclaims, dragging on his cigarette after the healing session is over. For Labo, 1989 was a rough year, but the show must go on — World News Link.

## Late-talking toddlers may need therapy

**PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)** — Many toddlers who are slow to speak fail to outgrow the problem by the time they reach age 3, suggesting treatment should be considered to expand their vocabulary, a scientist says.

"Traditional wisdom has counseled a wait-and-see attitude for 2-year-olds with delayed language development," said Rhea Paul, an associate professor of speech and hearing sciences at Portland State University.

But while some such toddlers improve spontaneously, many who show early signs of trouble expressing themselves may experience "long-term difficulty in language and school achievement," she said. Paul's study involved 42 tod-

dlers with language considered normal, and 36 considered "language delayed," producing fewer than 10 intelligible words at 18 to 23 months, or fewer than 50 words or no two-word combinations by 24 to 34 months. Of the 2-year-olds who were "language delayed," 41 percent couldn't express themselves as well as they should have by age 3, Paul found. And more than half of the 3-year-olds showed delays in their ability to understand.

Paul said slow development of language ability may be linked to immature or underdeveloped abilities to socialize with other children. If so, treatment by a specialist should emphasize the use of language in daily conversation and social situations, she said.

## Bahrain digging for clues to ancient Dilmun

By Mariam Isa  
Reuters

**BAHRAIN** — Archaeologists in Bahrain are digging through 4,000 years of history to learn more about the people who dominated the ancient trade routes of the Middle East.

Clues unearthed so far show this palm-covered Gulf island — the site of the world's largest prehistoric graveyard — was once the centre of the bustling Dilmun empire.

Ancient Dilmun's trade network stretched from the Indus valley in Pakistan to Mesopotamia at the head of the Gulf and Anatolia in what is now Turkey.

Archaeologists say it is becoming clear that 100,000 grave

mounds built in Bahrain between 2,200 and 1,700 B.C. were not used for burials by the Mesopotamians, who considered the island a holy land.

More than a third of the graves have been destroyed by development, but not before many were examined by archaeologists from Jordan, Denmark, France and Bahrain itself.

Now a British team is excavating a 4,000-year-old town near an oasis in the northern part of the island to try to discover how the ancient Dilmun people lived.

"Thanks to all the excavations which have been done so far we know a great deal about how the people died but we know remarkably little about how they lived," said Harriet Crawford, one of the

expedition's directors. "What we do know is that they were very skillful merchants and the island was an extremely important international market place at around 2,000 B.C."

Crawford, who has done extensive research in Iraq, said the Mesopotamians once were dependent on goods shipped from Dilmun.

Clay tablets found in Iraq showed Dilmun supplied them with wood, ivory and precious stones from the Indus valley, copper from Oman and steatite stone from Iran and the Arabian peninsula.

Mesopotamian merchants provided wool and grain — a valuable commodity for Dilmun, which imported much of its food.

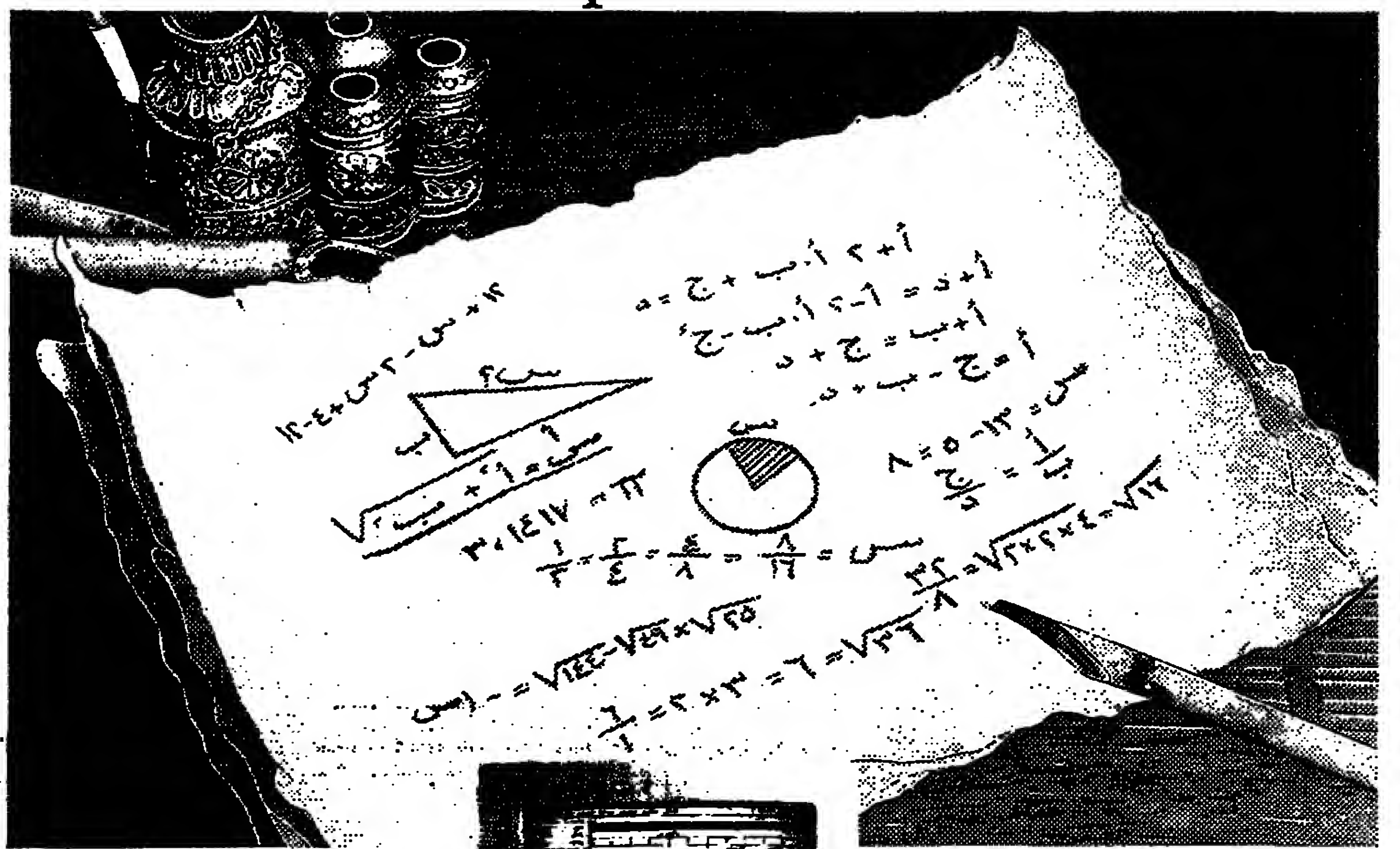
In turn Dilmun, with numerous freshwater springs, was famous for its dates and "fish-eyes" — an old term for pearls.

An ancient Middle Eastern epic says the warrior Gilgamesh came to Dilmun on a quest for immortality to find Ziusudra, survivor of a pre-Biblical flood.

Ziusudra told Gilgamesh to find the Bower of immortality by tying a stone to his feet and jumping into the sea — a technique Gulf pearl divers used until recently.

Crawford said Dilmun — which boomed between 2,200 B.C. and 1,800 B.C. — had links with Magan, an earlier culture in what is now Oman in the southern Arabian peninsula, and Falsika in modern Kuwait.

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## Rival fans riot in N. Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Rival Protestant and Roman Catholic soccer fans rioted in a heavily policed stadium Saturday, and police said they fired plastic bullets into the stands to subdue the rioters.

The violence spilled into surrounding streets, and fans hijacked four buses and set them afire, a statement from the Royal Ulster Constabulary said.

Forty-eight police and 15 civilians were injured and one officer and one civilian hospitalized, police said.

It was the worst soccer violence in years in Northern Ireland. Sports events are usually free of the fighting between Protestant and the Roman Catholic minority that has afflicted other areas of life in the British province.

Security forces had feared trouble at the game, a first-round match in the Irish Cup competition, so the game was delayed

25 minutes on police orders until the rival fans were in the ground and settled.

The police, who said many fans "were under the influence of drink," had formed a barrier between supporters of the Linfield team, which has a tradition of having only Protestant players, and Donegal Celtic, a team based in a Catholic neighbourhood of west Belfast.

One Linfield supporter got onto the field and attacked a Celtic player, said police, and "serious public disorder" continued in Donegal Celtic's area, where police were pelted with a heavy barrage of bottles and stones.

The police said officers got riot shields and charged fans in the Donegal Celtic area, to keep from being overrun by the crowd, and had to fire plastic bullets "to repel the sustained attack."

## Lendl beats McEnroe, reaches Skydome final

TORONTO (R) — World number one Ivan Lendl left little doubt about his superiority as he pounded former number one John McEnroe 6-3, 6-2 late Saturday to reach the final of the \$1.2 million Skydome world tennis tournament.

Lendl will meet the winner of the other semifinal match between second-seeded Brad Gilbert and his fellow-American Tim Mayotte, the sixth seed.

McEnroe marked his 31st birthday Friday but there was nothing to celebrate in his effort against Lendl.

"The bottom line is he kicked my butt..." the third-seeded McEnroe said. "You cannot allow yourself to miss shots — that shouldn't be in your vocabulary and it is right now. It's pretty disgraceful, really."

The hard-hitting Lendl, 29, increased his career edge over McEnroe to 18-15 as he won for the seventh time in their last eight meetings.

"What can I do about that?" said the top-seeded Lendl, when

asked if he missed the old, more penetrating McEnroe. "I can't pick up his game, he has to do it himself. I could lower my game, but I'm not going to do it."

Lendl toyed with a fairly subdued McEnroe in the one-hour 16-minute match. Both players argued about bad calls and snubbed umpire Rudolf Berger after the match.

"I can't say anything about the calls, you'll have to ask the ATP guys, because we're not allowed to say what we think," Lendl said. "I got out of Eastern Europe 10 years ago. Now I'm back into Communism and it's something called the ATP tour."

McEnroe's touch game stood no chance against Lendl's ferocious power. For McEnroe to beat Lendl he serves have to be well-disguised and lethally-placed, otherwise Lendl is able to rattle his return of serves past the American at will.

"John had lost the edge from the game," Lendl said. "His second serve is not so penetrating and his volley is not so crisp."



McEnroe called ATP trainer Bill Norris onto the court after the fifth game of the first set due to a strained muscle above the groin.

McEnroe said the injury made him a little tentative, but would not use it as an excuse.

The outcome seemed settled after Lendl broke to go ahead 5-3 in the first set when McEnroe netted a backhand half-volley.

Leading 4-0 in the second set, Lendl saved McEnroe from total embarrassment when he sailed a backhand long in the fifth game, allowing McEnroe to hold serve.

McEnroe held serve at love in the seventh game of the final set, but by then it was just too late.

## Kuwait pulls down sports posters that roused Saudi association

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait Sunday took down almost all the posters carrying the Gulf Cup soccer tournament emblem that prompted Saudi Arabia to pull its soccer team from the competition.

Sources said a high-level Kuwaiti delegation was planning to visit Riyadh to soothe ruffled feathers and try to convince the Saudis to send their team.

Saudi Arabia's Football Association Thursday announced it had decided not to take part in the tournament played every two years with six other Arab nations — Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq.

The Saudi announcement came five days before the tournament was due to start Feb. 20. The first Saudi statement did not give a reason for the action, prompting speculation of security fears.

But Saturday, the Saudi association said it objected to the emblem of the tournament carrying

symbols of a Saudi military defeat by Kuwait.

The emblem was the horses Emayan and Shouwayma — two horses considered vital in a battle in the 1920s in which Kuwait repulsed an invasion from Saudi Arabia.

History has it that the two Arab stallions ridden by Kuwaitis broke through the siege lines and brought back vital armed reinforcement.

The confrontation involved two leading members of the royal houses in both states. The head of the football association in Kuwait is Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, a brother of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The Saudi association is led by Prince Faisal Bin Fahd, the son of the Saudi monarch.

The issue of the emblem is the most controversial subject of the competition 10-year history and overshadowed debate over the skills of the teams participating.

"Every effort is being made by

Kuwait and the participants to persuade Saudi Arabia to join the six other Arab nations," said a Gulf sports official preparing for the tournament. He spoke on conditions of anonymity.

The posters carrying the emblem began coming off hotel walls and city streets hours before the Saudi Football Association issued its explanation, indicating that contacts had already been made between the neighbours.

Relations have long been marked by an unstated rivalry that is frequently visible in sports tournaments.

The last Gulf Cup tournament in 1988 was hosted by Riyadh. A Kuwaiti, protesting a referee ruling, slapped the face of an ace Saudi player and brought the match to a standstill for 10 minutes until the situation was brought under control.

Last week, a Gulf volleyball competition hosted by the Saudis saw the spectators jeering the Kuwaiti team throughout. The Kuwaitis won the contest.

## THE Daily Crossword

by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

1 Corker

5 Casual

10 Unruly

13 Alg. city

14 "— and hungry look"

15 Small

16 Unite

17 Measure in

18 Refusal

19 Summer of

20 Lustful

21 Polish

22 Fr. river

24 Golf score

25 ME city

28 NT book

33 Turk. blwige

34 Easy task

35 Injured

36 Marshal Broz

37 Midler

38 Commune in

39 Steady

40 Hooley shade

41 Cheating

42 Child or trust

43 Geriatric Poles

44 Glided high

45 Clamor

46 Hilo terrace

48 Inhibit

51 Oriental prefix

52 N.B. word

56 Operative

57 heroine

58 Dialect

59 Crow

59 About nine inches

60 "To with" kin

61 Story starter

62 Enclave

63 Piquant

64 Lumber

DOWN

1 Spot for an earnings

2 USSR range

3 Thin

4 Klugman film (with "The")

5 Whiteness

6 All a.g.

7 Where to read

8 Fat

9 Count start

10 Eastern gull

11 Hernando de

12 School dance

13 Where bluebirds fly

14 Anatomical duct

15 Bible book

16 abv.

17 — down! (shut up!)

18 Palm tree

19 Church vestment

20 TNT part

21 Tape gently

22 Of the moon

23 Koges

24 Opinion

25 Connery

26 Mawr, PA

27 Neckpiece

28 Gravity

29 High-hat

30 Feeling of dread

31 Ready

32 Old

33 Designer

34 Claiborne

35 Number one

36 Faction

37 Yes — (choice)

38 Mex. food

39 Old

40 Designer

41 Claiborne

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11 Across: AMOR

12 Across: AMOR

13 Across: AMOR

14 Across: AMOR

15 Across: AMOR

16 Across: AMOR

17 Across: AMOR

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## Becker, Steeb move to final of Belgian Indoor

RUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Top-seed Boris Becker beat Swede Magnus Gustafsson 6-4, 7-6, and Carl-Uwe Steeb finished off Czech Miloslav Mecir 6-2, 6-3 late Saturday to set up an all-West German final at the \$600,000 Belgian Indoor championship.

Becker, ranked second in the world, overcame lapses of concentration in the second set with his brand of power tennis to reach his first final this season.

Steeb, who already beat Becker in Sydney earlier this year, rolled over Olympic champion Mecir and turned what could have been a tough battle of baseline play into an exhibition of his forceful stroke-making. The match took little more than an hour.

Becker, improving throughout the week-long ATP championship series event, imposed his play throughout the first set and seemed on his way to an easy win when Gustafsson suddenly got a chance to come back into the match.

"With the pressure off, my concentration suffers and it brings out my weaknesses," said Becker, the U.S. Open and Wimbledon champion.

It showed early in the second set and Gustafsson profited, racing to a 5-2 lead, on the merits of one break, getting the 3,000-strong crowd at the Forest National Hall on his side.

"I was already looking forward to the third set," said the Swede,

ranked 36th in the world.

Becker, however, came back, switching into a higher gear, and allowed Gustafsson only one point on the Swede's remaining service games and confidently won his own to take a 6-5 lead.

"Under pressure I produce my best," said Becker.

But again Becker was fooled by the comfortable situation, and Gustafsson forced a tiebreak when he scored a love-game on Becker's serve with risky shots.

Becker did enough to win the tiebreak 7-4.

In the second semifinal, scrappy play marked the opening games, as Mecir and Steeb, 15th in the world rankings, quickly exchanged breaks. But only Steeb changed his ways.

"When you play from the baseline you have to be in good shape," said Steeb.

Mecir piled up two dozen unforced errors in the opening set, never stretching the mobile Steeb, who completed the first set in half an hour.

On Saturday, Mecir's lethargic style was not deceptive, he was slower, as Steeb's energetic groundstroke winners proved.

Steeb, 22, again broke Mecir's first service game of the second set but was more secure on his own. He quickly gained a 5-1 lead before reaching his second final of the season.

He lost to France's Yannick Noah in the Sydney ATP event last month.

Sunday's winner in the ATP event takes home \$77,500.

## Navratilova into Chicago final

CHICAGO (AP) — Martina Navratilova used her big serve and strong passing shots Saturday to defeat her former doubles partner, Pam Shriver, and reach the final of the Virginia Slims of Chicago tennis tournament.

The top-seeded Navratilova coasted to a 6-4, 6-3 victory at the Illinois-Chicago pavilion.

Navratilova has now beaten Shriver 25 consecutive times since losing to her at the 1982 U.S. Open, and holds an overall 35-3 edge over the eighth-seeded Baltimore player.

Navratilova, trying for her 10th Chicago Slims title since 1975, will meet the winner of Saturday night's semifinal match between defending champion Zina Garrison, the number two seed, and fifth-seeded Manuela Maleeva.

Navratilova got in 82 per cent of her first serves and repeatedly kept her opponent off balance with forehand smashes deep to the corners, while Shriver feebly tried to return with lobs.

At one point, Shriver complained about the officiating and asked whether one line judge could see the court.

"Why don't you get a little further away, like maybe by the popcorn machine," said Shriver. Navratilova said her right knee almost buckled running down a lob in the last set.

"Maybe it's old age, but it really hurts," Navratilova said.

Shriver, who double faulted three times in the final set said she was forced to overplay her serve.

"I have to go for a big second serve too, because Martina is just deadly returning second serves," she said.

Shriver failed to hold service in the seventh game of the second set, falling behind 4-3. She lost all four points, including two straight double faults.

"The seventh was the key," said Shriver, "especially when you consider I could have gone up 30-0."

## Yugoslavia wary of own potential

By Mladen Jergovic

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, the first European qualifiers for the World Cup finals, will arrive in Italy determined to shake off their reputation as a team who always fail to realise their potential in major tournaments.

Having romped through a group which also contained Scotland, France, Norway and Cyprus, they should be full of confidence for their opening round meetings with West Germany, Colombia and the United Arab Emirates.

But, as their realistic and cautious national coach Ivica Osim admitted, it may not work out that way.

"We probably surprised everyone, including ourselves, and now it will be very difficult not to fall into our usual routine — to disappoint when it's most important," he said.

Yugoslavia's unbeaten qualifying record secured entry to

their eighth World Cup finals. It will be their first appearance since 1982 when they were first round casualties in Spain.

Their best performances were in 1930, when they reached the semifinals in Montevideo, and 1962, when they finished fourth in Chile. In each case, typically, they followed their success by failing to qualify for the next two finals series.

One of the chief reasons for Yugoslavia's inconsistency has been the constant exodus of all their top players. Yugoslavia has a reputation as the "Brazil of Europe" for producing naturally-skilled players, but most of them move abroad to the rich professional leagues of Western Europe.

Osim, who took over in October 1986, decided that, unlike most of his predecessors, he would recall as many as possible of his "emigres" for major internationals. It has paid off.

Although Yugoslavia failed to

qualify for the 1988 European championship finals in West Germany, many, they formed into a powerful, skilful and exciting team in time for the World Cup qualifiers with up to nine foreign-based players in the side.

Osim plans to continue to include such men as 34-year old Paris SG striker Safer Susic and at least seven of his colleagues who play in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and West Germany.

They will be joined by domestic star midfielder Dragan Stokovic, 25, who is set to leave Red Star Belgrade after the finals and join Marseille for a reported transfer fee of \$7 million.

Osim is also likely to draft in several of the youngsters who shone during Yugoslavia's triumph at the 1987 World Youth Championship. He selected some for the team in the final matches of last year.

## Manchester's most successful club

LONDON (R) — Fans of Oldham Athletic have rarely been able to drag their soccer club was the most successful in the greater Manchester area — until this season.

As high-spending Manchester United and City struggle to avoid relegation from the first division, their second division neighbours are going through a rare golden period.

They have had 96 years to prepare for their first cup final and have not been in the first division since 1923 but "the Latics" are still on course for an amazing cup double — a feat no other Manchester team can hope for this season.

Unbeaten in 33 matches on their controversial artificial pitch at Boundary Park, they effectively secured their first cup final appearance Wednesday when

they trounced West Ham 6-0 in the first leg of their league cup semifinal match.

To get that far they had already beaten champion Arsenal and first division high fliers Southampton.

And on Saturday in the fifth round of the Football Association (F.A.) Cup they kept alive their hopes of a second trip to Wembley by holding last year's losing finalists Everton to a 2-2 draw.

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## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH

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## PLAY THE ODDS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K 10 4

♥ K 8 3

♦ Q 7 2

♣ Q J 10 8

EAST

♠ 7 3

♥ J 10 9 6 5 4 2

♦ J 10 9 8 4 3

♣ K 3

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

2 NT Pass 6 NT Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Some people dread a two-way finesse, claiming they always go wrong. The expert loves it, because by the time he commits himself it is no longer a pure guess!

South's sequence showed a balanced hand of 23-24 points—he added a point for all four aces. After an initial waiting response with a good hand, North bid its full value as soon as he learned what partner held.

Declarer won the opening lead in

dummy and, since he could count 12 tricks if the king of clubs were on-side, immediately ran the queen of clubs. West took the king and persevered with diamonds. Now declarer's 12th trick would have to come from spades, and there are those who would peer at the heavens for inspiration before closing their eyes and taking the finesse one way or the other.

If the odds held true, exactly half of them would guess right. The other 50 percent would blame their horoscopes for being out of kilter.

The expert sets out to learn as much as possible about the hand. Declarer cashes out all the winners in the three non-vital suits. In the process South learns that West started with six diamonds, two clubs and no hearts. Therefore, West has five spades and East only two. The odds have increased dramatically from 50 percent—West suddenly has become a 5-to-2 favorite to hold the queen.

So declarer leads a spade to the ten and, when that holds, he claims his slam. Declarer has simply headed off two key principles: Do not commit yourself to a line earlier than necessary; and count the enemy distribution to find a clue about how to tackle the crucial suit.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is one of those days when you can get out and sell yourself and your ideas with far greater ease than usual. The cooperation of others in joint ventures is easier too.

Be sure you carry through with the promises that you have made to your attachment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make sure everything is in its right place in your home. Take your loved one to any amusements or recreations you have planned for you both.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Much discussion with friends for increasing your income can be very helpful now. Don't let your attachment be aware of any of the doubts that are assailing you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day to get all your projects in a beneficial condition. Concentrate on doing as many nice things and giving gifts to your attachment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) All kinds of valuable information is at your fingertips if you ask for it. Now is your time to investigate all phases of two projects before accepting either.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Seeing and being with friends and your attachment at outside recreations could be wonderful for both of you and them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the time to invite all persons who are important to you into your home at this time. Older and serious friends will aid you with any duties willingly.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your most practical assistance now will come from an older man of judgement. Get your business affairs organized now in conjunction with one experienced.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Older friends will now bring you considerable happiness at your dwelling. A serious talk with your attachment now will open the way for greater future accord.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your residence will be the best site where you can entertain now.

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**CONCORD**

**LICENCE TO KILL**

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

**PHILADELPHIA**

**MY TUTOR**

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

**NIJOUN**

**STEALING HOME**

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**PLAZA**

**COCKTAIL**

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



## Japan's LDP set to win stable majority in polls

**TOKYO (R)** — Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is likely to have won a stable majority of at least 271 seats in the 512-member lower house of parliament in Sunday's election, Kyodo News Service projected.

Kyodo issued the projection minutes after it, the Public Broadcasting Network NHK and the Financial News Agency Jiji Press all said that their separate computer projections showed the LDP achieving at least a bare majority of 257 seats.

NHK projected an LDP total of about 260 seats. It said the LDP was projected to win 230 seats out of the 431 seats to be determined by Sunday night. Of the 81 seats to be counted Monday, it predicted the ruling party would win at least 50, making a grand total of about 260.

The opposition Japan Socialist Party was set to win about 130 seats, substantially up from the 85 it had in the outgoing chamber, NHK said.

But the LDP victory was mainly at the expense of the smaller opposition parties who were not doing as well as the JSP, the network said.

Many analysts at the start of the campaign two weeks ago believed the scandal-ridden LDP could fail to retain power, even with the help of conservative independents.

Prime Minister Kaifu, fighting for his political life both against the opposition and against powerful barons within his own party, was one of the first projected winners Sunday night, along with his main rival, Japan Socialist Party (JSP) chairwoman Takako Doi.

So too were former Prime Ministers Yasuhiro Nakasone, Noboru Takeshita and Sosuke Uno — all three tainted by the corruption and sex scandals which in 1989 threatened to bring an ignominious end to the LDP's 34 years of unbroken rule.

The three men, together with other prominent LDP candidates implicated in the Recruit "shares for favours" affair and other corruption cases, had said they looked to the electorate to cleanse them of blame and give them a new political virginity.

The opposition had hammered away at the scandals and at the huge sums — a reported \$210 million — the LDP spent on its campaign.

They had also tried to make further capital from the unpopularity of a three per cent sales tax

the government brought in last year. Public anger over the tax was seen as a key factor in the LDP's stunning defeat in elections last July for the less powerful upper house.

Yet at the end of a two-week campaign which rarely rose above the lacklustre, voters seemed above all to have accepted Kaifu's main argument — that the divided opposition parties were not competent to govern.

Kaifu reserved his main fire for the JSP, charging that they intended to carry out socialist revolution and destroy Japan's phenomenal economic success. It seemed that voters paid heed to his message.

About 71 per cent of Japan's 90 million eligible voters cast ballots Sunday, slightly more than voted in 1986 when the LDP won 295 lower house seats in a landslide victory.

The fine, sunny weather over most of Japan was seen helping swell the turnout, and with it the ruling party's chances.

Among those voting early in the capital was Kiko Kawashima, a 23-year-old graduate student who in June will lose her commoner status — and along with it her right to vote — when she marries Prince Aya, second son of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.



## Czech communist party purges 22

**PRAGUE (Agencies)** — Former President Gustav Husak and 21 others have been ousted from the Communist Party and accused of blocking development and discrediting socialism during their tenure over Czechoslovakia.

The official news agency CTK, quoting from an announcement released after a central committee meeting, said those expelled Saturday were "responsible for wrong political decisions."

CTK, quoting the official announcement, said the 22 dropped from the party "contributed to a situation where the ideas of socialism are quite discredited in a considerable part of the population."

They "participated in pursuing the undemocratic directive system of management that ... paralysed the internal life of the party and its capability to tackle effectively the questions of the development of society and helped estrange the people from the party," CTK said, quoting the statement.

The expulsions were proposed by a commission attempting to establish responsibility for Czechoslovakia's economic and political problems.

The party said Husak had "undeniable merits" but said he was being expelled for "his comprehensive responsibility for the political development, mainly in the past ten years."

Husak, installed as party chief in 1969 following the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968, was replaced as head of the party by Milos Jakes in December 1987.

But Husak continued as President of Czechoslovakia, a post he lost during the country's peaceful revolution to the hitherto best-known Czechoslovak dissident — playwright Vaclav Havel.

Havel became Czechoslovak president on Dec. 29, 1989. Also purged Saturday was Lubomir Strougal, who had resigned as premier Oct. 11, 1988, following criticism inside the Communist party. He was replaced by Ladislav Adamec, who is now leader of the declining Communist party.

Adamec told the Central Committee Session earlier Saturday that up to 30 per cent of the party's 1.7 million members had left its ranks since Nov. 17, 1989, which marked the start of the peaceful revolution that swept the Communists from power.

The Communist party, without a majority in the government and in parliament, will face an uphill battle in the first free elections tentatively scheduled for June 8.

Less than three months ago, the Communist party had a guaranteed monopoly on power enshrined in Czechoslovakia's constitution and Adamec was still prime minister.

The brutal suppression of a student demonstration in central Prague Nov. 17 triggered mass protests that led to the Communists being ousted from power.

Jakes and Prague party boss Miroslav Stepan both denied ordering the police action Nov. 17. But they lost their jobs and were quickly expelled from the party, as was former chief ideologist Vasil Bilak.

## Mongolian opposition party proclaimed

**ULAN BATOR (R)** — A political group seeking to smash Mongolia's 69-year-old Communist system proclaimed itself the nation's first opposition political party Sunday.

"Long live the Mongolian Democratic Party," shouted leader Dognidyn Sosorbarm to a standing ovation from 500 nationwide delegates gathered for a first congress inside a large Ulan Bator auditorium.

The party has grown out of the Mongolian Democratic Association, which has staged public rallies since its inception last December and frequently criticised the Communist Party for causing an "economic and spiritual crisis" in Mongolia.

Western diplomats here have said the democracy movement poses the most serious threat ever to the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

They said the movement had grown rapidly since December and appeared to be gathering momentum.

Strained relations with the U.S. improved slightly after the second of two controversial visits to China by U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, last

December. But relations are still cool and President George Bush has been accused of "kowtowing" to China.

China was widely seen Saturday as scoring a diplomatic success for its endorsement of a future constitution, or basic law, for Hong Kong after the British colony reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

China and Britain had frequently sparred over the basic law since last June.

Hundreds of thousands of people marched through the streets of Hong Kong in protest against the June crackdown, and Beijing pointedly warned that the territory must not become a "base for subversion."

Some 610 delegates from all over this remote Asian state crowded into an auditorium to hear calls for an end to Mongolia's 69-year-old Communist system which one said made people "slaves of a monstrous state apparatus."

The new party planned to vote later Sunday on whether to petition the nation's parliament for the politburo's resignation.

## Cuba heads towards reforms

**HAVANA (R)** — Cuba, defiant but concerned about reforms sweeping Eastern Europe, wants to breathe new life into its 31-year revolution by making its one-party political system more responsive to the people.

But the island's ruling Communist Party, headed by President Fidel Castro, says it has no intention of following its Soviet counterpart to multi-party politics.

Significant internal reforms unveiled by the party Central Committee Saturday will seek to revitalize Cuba's political institutions by making them more efficient and more in touch with the island's 10 million people.

While the initiative is clearly a response to the political and economic reforms in Eastern Europe, its main point is to strengthen the Communist Party's leading role as enshrined in the Caribbean island's 1976 Marxist-Leninist constitution.

"What we are talking about is the perfecting of a single, Leninist party based on the principles of democratic centralism," the Central Committee said in a statement which covered the front page of the party daily Granma.

The declaration marks a parting of ways between the Cuban party and its counterpart in the Soviet Union, Cuba's main political ally, which this month scrapped its monopoly of power, paving the way for multi-party democracy.

To strengthen its position, Cuba's Communist Party wants to improve all the country's political institutions, from the Central Committee down to the neighbourhood committees for the defence of the revolution.

The Central Committee statement talked of "strengthening links with workers' groups, youth — especially students — peasants, intellectuals and the whole nation grouped in its mass organisations."

The initiative appeared aimed at heading off criticism that the party and its institutions had become bureaucratic and insensitive to grievances about shortages and inefficiencies.

Also significant was the sing-

ling out of students as an important group with which the party should keep in touch.

The authorities have neither confirmed nor denied reports by human rights activists that several students were arrested last month for criticising Castro.

In the proposed reforms, the Central Committee called for a return to the values of the 1959 revolution led by Castro that toppled the right-wing dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

The party's fresh approach also includes appointments to bring in youth and workers' leaders and military figures.

Pedro Ross, recently appointed head of the Cuban Workers Union, and Roberto Robaina, the Communist youth leader, were made substitute members of the party politburo.

Two other party stalwarts, Lionel Soto and the younger Jaime Crombet, were made vice-presidents of the Executive Council of State headed by Castro.

Army General Sixto Baista took over from a civilian the task of coordinating the committees for the defence of the revolution, which organise patriotic activities at grass-roots level and police against "counter-revolutionaries."

The Central Committee offered no concrete solutions to Cuba's mounting economic problems. The country's sugar-based economy is being squeezed by a growing foreign debt and falling hard currency reserves while the changes in Eastern Europe threaten to disrupt its traditional economic relations.

Cuba receives vital oil, food, machinery and technical aid from the Soviet Union in exchange for sugar, nickel and fruit.

But the Central Committee said experts in a restructured economic planning commission would tackle the problems.

## Opposition asks for new elections in Comoros

**MORONI (R)** — The Comoro Islands' first free elections began in turmoil Sunday when seven opposition presidential candidates called for the immediate resignation of the country's interim president and the suspension of the polls.

The opposition candidates held a crisis meeting after it was found the indelible ink to be used to mark voters' fingers to prevent them from voting twice rubbed off easily and many polling stations lacked ballot papers for all eight candidates.

The eighth candidate is president said Mohamed Djohar, who became interim head of state after the assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah last November and a three-week

period when the islands were under the control of white mercenaries.

Djohar, who is backed by the Comoros' ruling establishment, was not immediately available for comment.

Three hours after voting was due to have started many polling stations on the main island of Grande Comore had either failed to open or had opened briefly and then closed because of the irregularities exposed.

Officials of the National Electoral Commission, an organisation set up to supervise the poll, said the situation was similar in the two other islands, Anjouan and Moheli.

The seven opposition candi-

dates issued a communique calling for the immediate resignation of Djohar, the cancellation of Sunday's poll and the organisation of a fresh presidential election within eight days.

They called for a member of the supreme court to organise the new poll in agreement with the presidential candidates.

The communique was signed by Mohammed Taki and Abbas Djonssouf, both widely tipped as leading contenders for the election, and five other candidates.

"Asked what the opposition would do if Djohar refused to resign and suspend the election, Taki replied: "We are able to stop the election taking place throughout the territory of the nation." He did not elaborate.

## Former rebel wins Filipino vote

**MANILA (R)** — A former Muslim rebel leader now supported by the government claimed victory Sunday in violence-marred elections to choose the governor of an autonomous region in the southern Philippines.

Zacarias Candao, who is backed by President Corazon Aquino's ruling coalition, led by a three-to-one margin over local muslim strongman Ali Dimaporo, a former congressman and loyal follower of the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

An unofficial count gave Candao 102,320 votes to Dimaporo's 34,559 in the four provinces which voted last November to join a predominantly muslim autonomous region on Mindanao Island. Nine other provinces in the area rejected the plan.

Colonel Wilfredo Villanueva, the police commander for central Mindanao, said three suspected muslim rebels were killed Saturday when they snatched ballot boxes in buldon town.

Police in Masin town, in nearby Lanao Del Sur province, said one man was killed when unidentified men opened fire during voting in the area.

Candao, a lawyer, joined the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), an insurgent group fighting for muslim self-rule in Mindanao, in 1977 but returned to the government fold in 1985. He was later elected governor of Maguindanao province.

Also at stake in the polls were the post of vice-governor and 21 seats in a regional assembly.

The autonomous region, comprising the provinces of Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao and Lanao Del Sur, will retain 40 per cent of taxes collected in the area and draw up the region's economic policies. Manila remains in charge of defence and foreign policy.

Separatist MNLF rebels, who had campaigned against the Manila government's autonomy offer, ignored the polls.

More than 50,000 people died at the height of the separatist war in the 1970s.

## Couple conceives baby in effort to save older daughter from cancer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A couple conceived a child in hopes the baby's bone marrow cells could save the life of a teen-age daughter who is dying of cancer, but ethics experts said the decision is outrageous and troubling.

Such criticism means little to Abe Ayala and his wife, Mary. They found out this week that despite one-in-four odds, their unborn baby girl will be a compatible bone marrow "stem cell" donor for their 17-year-old daughter, Anissa, who was diagnosed with leukemia two years ago.

"We've been searching for a donor for almost two years and we haven't been able to find anybody, so this is the only other alternative," Ayala said Friday. "We can't just stand idly by and do nothing about it and wait for Anissa to die."

The Ayalas live in Los Angeles with Anissa and a 19-year-old son, Airon. They were told that Anissa has a 70 per cent to 80 per cent chance of surviving if she receives a

transplant of stem cells — bone marrow cells that help produce various blood cells — but no chance if she doesn't, her father said.

None of the Ayalas have compatible marrow. So against the advice of Anissa's doctor and after years of resisting his wife's wish to have another child, the 45-year-old Ayala had his vasectomy reversed last year. Mrs. Ayala, 43, is due to deliver a baby girl in April.

If not for Anissa's leukemia, "it's true we would have never had another baby this late," Ayala said.

"It is troublesome to say the least," medical ethics expert Philip Boyle said from the Hastings centre in Briarcliff Manor, New York "its outrageous that people would go to this length."

"The ideal reason for having a child is associated with that child's own welfare — to bring a child into being and to nurture it," said Alexander Morgan Capron, a professor of law

and medicine at the University of Southern California.

"One of the fundamental precepts of ethics ... is that each person is an end in himself or herself, and is never to be used solely as a means to another person's ends without the agreement of the person being used," he said.

The baby can't consent to the transplant, and the parents face a conflict of interest in making the decision, the experts said.

The Ayalas' baby "is not seen as an end in itself, but as a means to another end. The fact that the other end is laudable doesn't change that," Capron said.

Anissa said she is "sort of upset" by criticism of her parents, but "we're going to love our baby."

Mrs. Ayala said, "our baby is going to have more love than she probably can put up with." Leukemia is a cancer of white blood cells. Doctors use high-dose radiation and chemotherapy to kill diseased

bone marrow and blood cells. Then marrow from a matching donor, usually a sibling, is injected into the leukemia patient's bones so healthy stem cells from the marrow can produce healthy blood cells.

Ayala said his daughter's leukemia is now stable, and doctors expect she will be alive even if they have to wait until her baby sister is 6 months old, the youngest age at which marrow can be transplanted.

However, Anissa's doctors at City of Hope national medical centre in suburban Duarte hope to make the marrow transplant unnecessary by obtaining stem cells from the baby's umbilical cord blood at the time of birth, a painless procedure, hospital spokesman Charles Mathews said.

The doctors have said the baby faces little risk even if she is needed to donate marrow. The procedure requires the infant to be put under general anesthesia to block pain while needles are used to remove the marrow.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ortega proposes freeing jailed soldiers

**MANAGUA (R)** — Nicaragua's legislature will meet next Tuesday to discuss a request from president Daniel Ortega to free some 300 jailed soldiers, a spokesman for the national assembly said Saturday. The pro-government El Nuevo Diario newspaper said those to be freed were serving jail sentences for desertion, indiscipline, damage to military property and bad conduct. It quoted Sandinista officials as saying a pardon was likely to be approved on Tuesday by the Sandinista-dominated assembly and the Sandinista soldiers could be freed on Wednesday or Thursday, days before Feb. 25 general elections. About 60 soldiers accused of murder or high treason would not be released, the newspaper said. The Nicaraguan government last week released more than 1,000 jailed Contra rebels and members of ousted dictator Anastasio Somoza's national guard as a gesture of reconciliation before the elections. "We think that after freeing the last remnant of the national guard and the Contras, nothing is more just than to free former members of the (Sandinista) army who committed some faults," National Assembly Speaker Rafael Solis was quoted as saying by El Nuevo Diario.

### Fighting breaks out in San Salvador

**SAN SALVADOR (R)** — Fighting broke out between government troops and leftist rebels in three northern suburbs of the capital Saturday night, authorities said, blacking out the city as helicopters strafed the areas with bullets. At least two military helicopters could be seen circling the combat zones, and

machinegun fire indicated they were strafing presumed rebel positions. The sounds of fighting appeared to subside soon after the helicopters appeared. Bursts of machinegun fire and the thump of explosions could be heard in the capital a loud blast was followed immediately by a power outage. A government emergency official contacted by telephone said the fighting was centred around the neighbourhoods of San Antonio Abad, San Ramon and San Luis at the foot of the San Salvador volcano that overlooks the capital. He said an early blast temporarily caused a power failure over much of the city. Lights came on again around midnight. During the fighting, which raged for 30 minutes, the sky was lit with flares lobbed by the army to illuminate combat sites.

### Somalia's cabinet sworn in

**MOGADISHU (R)** — Members of Somalia's new cabinet, named last Thursday by President Mohammad Siad Barre, were sworn in Saturday night. Somalia had been without a government for more than a month, after the president dissolved the cabinet for failing to solve the country's economic and social problems. He later reappointed Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Samantar and instructed him to select a new cabinet. Several members of the former cabinet have been dropped and others reappointed. Among the new faces are the interior minister, Colonel Abdulkadir Haji Mohammad, formerly President Siad Barre's number two in the ruling party, and the foreign minister, Ahmed Jama Abdulla, former ambassador in London.

### Iran avalanche kills 21

**NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)** — An avalanche in western Iran killed at least 21 people and trapped 110 other under a blanket of snow, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the avalanche occurred Friday afternoon in the Zanki dool mountains near Sar Dasht close to the Iraqi border. It quoted an unidentified local official as saying 79 of the local villagers trapped by the avalanche were later rescued alive and rescue workers continued to search for the remaining 31.

### Basques offer to end violence

**PAMPLONA (R)** — Basque separatists offered Saturday to end their campaign of violence and kidnappings if the government resumes talks broken off in Algiers last year. A communique issued in Bilbao by the Herri Batasuna (HB) party, political arm of the ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) group, said kidnappings like that of industrialist Adolfo Villalada Martin, set free on Friday night, would cease. Villalada, 49, was released unharmed by ETA after 84 days captivity, in exchange for a reported \$2.7 million ransom. "If the government is prepared to renew the Algiers dialogue this type of kidnapping and other armed acts by ETA could be avoided," the HB communique said. A change in Basque separatist attitudes was signalled earlier this week when two HB parliamentarians-elect called at a news conference in Paris for renewed talks and said Villalada could be released soon.

## C8 COLUMN

### Close gets another honour

**HANOVER, New Hampshire (AP)** — Actress Glenn Close scooped up another honour from a college, this time from the Dartmouth Film Society, joining Robert Redford and Lillian Gish as recipients of the organisation's award. "I hope I can keep doing the kind of work that warrants this overwhelming response," the actress said at Wednesday's ceremony at Dartmouth College. "It's deeply moving and I thank you from the bottom of my heart." Close, a five-time Academy Award nominee, made her film debut in 1982 in the film *Acceding to Garp*. Since then, she has starred in such films as *Fatal Attraction*, and *Dangerous Liaisons*. Earlier Close had received the Woman of the Year award from *Hasty Pudding* Theatricals at Harvard University.

### Shoe sorter finds \$3,000 in shoe

**FLORIDA (AP)** — A goodwill industries worker accustomed to finding change in donated shoes ran across one shoe with a bit more \$3,000. "I took one look at that and I said, 'oh, oh, oh,'" said Fred Kuhn, who has worked in a goodwill programme for the disabled for 20 years. The \$20 and \$50 bills were in several bank envelopes marked with the name Mrs. Henry Konarske and an address: Henry Konarske, who is recuperating from a recent hernia operation, answered the telephone call from goodwill employees. He said his wife, Martha, died recently, and he had donated some of her belongings. The goodwill employees told the 90-year-old retired postal worker about the cash. "I didn't know what to say," Konarske said. "It was a surprise to me—I didn't know anything about it. Until she got sick about two years ago, she took care of all the bills." Konarske said he and his niece have found \$7,000 in dressers and shoe boxes around the house since his wife's death.

### Connery caught for speeding

**SANTA BARBARA, (AP)** — Actor Sean Connery was caught by police driving at high speeds along a scenic highway, a la James Bond. He has admitted guilt and paid a fine, authorities said. "007 did it. But unlike ZSA ZSA, he didn't fight with police," said Bob Calvert, Santa Barbara county chief trial deputy. Referring to Miss Gabor's conviction for slapping a Beverly Hills policeman who stopped her Rolls-Royce, Connery, through his attorney, Thursday paid a \$190 speeding ticket for going 131 kph when the limit was 88 kph. He was driving a rented 1989 Thunderbird when he was caught along the two-lane highway 154 near the southern California town of Solvang last Dec. 23. A California highway patrolman ticketed him for speeding and for driving without a license. The latter charge was dismissed after Connery's attorney showed the star had a British driver's license. "Too bad he wasn't in an Austin Healy and got away with an oil slick or smoke screen," Calvert said. "All the secretaries in the office were going crazy. They wanted me to make sure that he appeared in court. I would've lost a whole day's work if he did." Connery, the first of four actors to play Bond, starred in "Indiana Jones and the last crusade," one of the top grossing movies of 1989 with \$196 million. His newest film, "The Hunt for Red October," opens next month.

## Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	06	43	08
ATHENS	06	43	08
BAHRAIN	15	50	21
BANGKOK	25	77	81
BUSINESS APES	05	41	13
CARDO	12	54	28
CHICAGO	08	23	01
COPENHAGEN	01	34	08
FRANKFURT	05	41	13
GENOVA	05	41	13
HONG KONG	17	63	21
ISTANBUL	05	41	13
LONDON	05	41	13
LOS ANGELES	05	41	13
MADRID	05	41	13
MECCA	19	66	32
MONTREAL	-12	10	01
MOSCOW	05	41	13
NEW DELHI	08	21	04
NEW YORK	-07	19	14
PARIS	00	48	13
ROME	08	43	18
SYDNEY	20	66	27
TOKYO	05	41	13
VIENNA	00	32	08